Weekly Compilation of

Presidential Documents

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Editor's Note: The President was at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on March 5, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, March 5, 2004

The President's Radio Address

February 28, 2004

Good morning. For many years, illegal drug use has been a serious problem facing our country. Drugs cost people their savings and their health and rob children of their promise. My administration has taken action to confront this danger. We have pursued an ambitious, focused strategy to cut demand for drugs at home, interdict supplies of drugs abroad, and treat more addicts who seek help.

In 2002, I set a goal to reduce illegal drug use by 10 percent over 2 years and by 25 percent over 5 years. This Monday we will release the annual National Drug Control Strategy, which shows the impressive progress we have made. Youth drug use declined 11 percent between 2001 and 2003, meaning 400,000 fewer young people used drugs. These results exceeded our goal and proved that our hard work is paying off.

This year, we will expand our strategy so that we can make even greater progress in the fight against drugs. The best way to cut drug use is to cut demand for drugs at the ground level. So my budget includes a $10-million increase for drug-free communities, a commonsense prevention program that supports local coalitions working to stop young people from using drugs.

Research shows that teenagers who abstain from drugs are unlikely to start using them later in life. So I have asked Congress to provide an additional $23 million for high schools who want to develop and carry out drug testing programs. Random drug testing gives students a strong answer to the social pressure to try drugs. It helps schools identify those using drugs so they can intervene with counseling and treatment before experiments turn into addictions.

We've seen the positive results of drug testing across the country. Just 2 years after Hunterdon Central Regional High School in New Jersey began its testing program, drug use had declined significantly throughout the school. Hunterdon's principal described the program's effect this way: "We have never seen a prevention curriculum that affected the numbers this substantially. We finally had a tool that was making a large difference."

As we reduce demand for drugs, we're also preventing drug supplies from entering our country. Our military and law enforcement personnel are targeting the world's most dangerous drug trafficking networks. We are dismantling these organizations and putting their leaders in jail. And by working with governments across our hemisphere, we are drying up the world's supply of illegal drugs at its source.

Finally, we are taking steps to help those who have fallen into the destructive cycle of addiction. Drug dependence undermines productivity as well as moral conviction and devastates millions of families each year. Some addicts recognize their problem and want to change but cannot afford access to professional care. To help men and women like these, I launched an initiative called Access to Recovery. This program will help thousands of Americans get the treatment they need. And because I know a good way to change a person's behavior is to change their heart, faith-based treatment programs will always be an option. Congress has provided $100 million for this lifesaving program, and this year, I have asked it to double that amount.

The progress reported in this year's Drug Control Strategy is encouraging. Our goals are ambitious, and we have seen they can be achieved. Now we will build on the improvement of the past 2 years, and we will continue working toward a society in which all citizens can lead a life of independence and purpose, free from the devastating influence of drugs.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:30 a.m. on February 27 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on February 28. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on February 27 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to Lisa Brady, principal, Hunterdon Central Regional High School, Flemington, NJ. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on the Resignation of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti

February 29, 2004

President Aristide resigned. He has left his country. The Constitution of Haiti is working. There is an interim President, as per the Constitution, in place.

I have ordered the deployment of marines, as the leading element of an interim international force, to help bring order and stability to Haiti. I have done so in working with the international community.

This Government believes it essential that Haiti have a hopeful future. This is the beginning of a new chapter in the country's history. I would urge the people of Haiti to reject violence, to give this break from the past a chance to work. And the United States is prepared to help.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:05 p.m. on the South Grounds at the White House.

Statement Calling for Congressional Action on Foreign Sales Corporations/Extraterritorial Income Legislation

March 1, 2004

I urge Congress to take up and pass FSC/ETI legislation that reforms the Tax Code, removes the underlying reason for the tariffs that have been imposed today on American exports, and further advances the competitiveness of American manufacturers and job creators. Over the past 3 years, my administration has worked with Congress to further increase the ability of American companies to succeed in the worldwide economy, laying the foundation for increased growth and job creation. If we don't act to replace the current FSC/ETI provisions in the Tax Code, the tariffs that have been imposed today will, over the next year, impose an increasing burden on American exporters, their workers, and the overall economy. To support the continued strengthening of our economy and to create more jobs, the Congress should act now to end the threat of these tariffs and promote the competitiveness of American manufacturers and other job-creating sectors of the U.S. economy.

Proclamation 7758—To Modify Duty-Free Treatment Under the Generalized System of Preferences

March 1, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Pursuant to sections 501 and 502(a)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "Act") (19 U.S.C. 2461, 2462(a)(1)), the President is authorized to designate countries as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

2. Section 502(b)(1)(C) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(b)(1)(C)) specifies that European Union member states may not be designated as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the GSP.

3. Section 502(e) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(e)) provides that the President shall terminate the designation of a country as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP if the President determines that such country has become a "high income" country as defined by the official statistics of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Termination is effective on January 1 of the second year following the year in which such determination is made.

4. Pursuant to sections 501 and 502(a)(1) of the Act, and having due regard for the factors set forth in section 501 of the Act and taking into account the factors set forth

in section 502(c) (19 U.S.C. 2462(c)), I have decided to designate Algeria as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP.

5. Consistent with section 502(b)(1)(C) of the Act, I have decided to terminate the designation of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia as beneficiary developing countries, with such termination to become effective for each of these countries when it becomes a European Union member state.

6. Pursuant to section 502(e) of the Act, I have determined that Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, and Barbados have become "high income" countries, and I am terminating the designation of those countries as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the GSP, effective January 1, 2006.

7. Section 604 of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2483), authorizes the President to embody in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) the substance of the relevant provisions of that Act, and of other acts affecting import treatment, and actions thereunder, including the removal, modification, continuance, or imposition of any rate of duty or other import restriction.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, acting under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including title V and section 604 of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2461–67, 2483), do proclaim that:

(1) Algeria is designated as a beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP, effective 15 days after the date of this proclamation.

(2) In order to reflect this designation in the HTS, general note 4(a) to the HTS is modified by adding "Algeria" to the list entitled "Independent Countries," effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the fifteenth day after the date of this proclamation.

(3) The designation of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the GSP is terminated for each country on the date when it becomes a European Union member state. The United States Trade Representative shall announce each such date in a notice published in the *Federal Register*.

(4) In order to reflect these terminations in the HTS, general note 4(a) to the HTS is modified by deleting "Czech Republic," "Estonia," "Hungary," "Latvia," "Lithuania," "Poland," and "Slovakia" from the list of independent countries, effective for each of these countries with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the day on which that country becomes a European Union member state.

(5) The designation of Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, and Barbados as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the GSP is terminated, effective on January 1, 2006.

(6) In order to reflect this termination in the HTS, and to make other changes to update the list of Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM) member countries, effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after January 1, 2006, general note 4(a) to the HTS is modified by:

(a) deleting "Antigua and Barbuda," "Bahrain," and "Barbados" from the list of independent countries,

(b) deleting "Antigua and Barbuda" and "Barbados" from the list of the "*Member Countries of the Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM), except The Bahamas*" under the provision "*Associations of Countries (treated as one country)*," and

(c) deleting "*Member Countries of the Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM), except The Bahamas*" and inserting "*Member Countries of the Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM)*" in lieu thereof, and deleting "Consisting of:" before the list of countries and inserting "Currently qualifying:" in lieu thereof.

(7) Any provisions of previous proclamations and Executive Orders that are inconsistent with the actions taken in this proclamation are superseded to the extent of such inconsistency.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the

Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 3, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 4.

Message to the Congress on Extending Generalized System of Preferences Benefits to Algeria and Terminating Benefits of Certain Other Countries

March 1, 2004

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 502(f) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "Act"), I am writing to inform you of my intent to designate Algeria as a beneficiary developing country and to terminate the designation of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bahrain, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia as beneficiary developing countries for purposes of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

I have considered the criteria set forth in sections 501 and 502 of the Act. In light of these criteria, I have determined that it is appropriate to extend GSP benefits to Algeria. I have also determined that Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, and Bahrain have become "high income" countries, and I therefore terminate their designation as beneficiary developing countries effective January 1, 2006. Furthermore, consistent with the Act's prohibition on designation of European Union member states as beneficiary developing countries, I am terminating such designation for the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Slovakia when they become European Union member states.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 1, 2004.

Memorandum on Delegation of Certain Reporting Authority

March 1, 2004

Memorandum for the United States Trade Representative

Subject: Delegation of Certain Reporting Authority

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby delegate to you the functions conferred upon the President by section 163 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2213), to provide the specified report to the Congress.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 3, 2004]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on March 4.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on International Agreements

March 1, 2004

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

Consistent with subsection (b) of the Case-Zablocki Act, (1 U.S.C. 112b), I hereby transmit a report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard G. Lugar, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Message to the Congress Transmitting the National Drug Control Strategy

March 1, 2004

To the Congress of the United States:

I am transmitting the 2004 National Drug Control Strategy, consistent with the Office

of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1705).

Two years ago, my Administration issued its National Drug Control Strategy setting forth a balanced approach to reducing drug use among teenagers and adults. The Strategy set ambitious two- and five-year performance-based goals: (i) to lower the rate of drug use by 10 percent over two years; and (ii) to lower the rate by 25 percent over five years. The success of the Strategy can be measured by its results.

I am pleased to report that we have exceeded our two-year goal of reducing drug use among young people. The most recent survey shows an 11 percent drop between 2001 and 2003 in the use of illicit drugs by teenagers. Among teens, some drugs—such as LSD—have dropped to record low levels of use. For others, we are seeing the lowest levels of use in almost a decade.

Despite this good news, drug addiction continues to challenge far too many Americans. Addiction to drugs destroys ties of trust, family, and friendship, and reduces all the richness of life to a single destructive desire. Almost every American has known someone who has followed the self-destructive path of addiction. Too many Americans want to change a family member's behavior, but are afraid of causing division and, perhaps, estrangement.

Our Strategy proposes a remarkable and unprecedented array of drug control programs, treatment initiatives, and media campaign efforts. But more than any program, it seeks to engage the desire of all Americans to make this a better Nation, facing down the lie of addiction, and offering the hope of recovery.

My Administration will continue to place a high priority on reducing drug addition in America. I ask for your continued support in this critical endeavor.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 1, 2004.

Remarks on the Anniversary of the United States Department of Homeland Security

March 2, 2004

Thank you all. Please be seated. Please be seated—unless, of course, you don't have a seat. [*Laughter*] Thanks for the warm welcome. I'm honored to join the proud men and women of the Department of Homeland Security in celebrating this agency's first anniversary.

Many of you were here from day one. Others have come aboard in the days since. Yet, from the President to the Secretary to the newest employee, all of us here are tasked with a single, vital mission, to secure the American homeland and to protect the American people. There is no duty more important. We're meeting that duty together, and on behalf of a grateful nation, I thank you all for what you do to defend our country.

I appreciate Secretary Ridge's leadership. I plucked him out of the ranks of the Governors because I knew he knew how to manage and to set an agenda. He has not let me down. Along with the other leaders here, he and the team are doing a fantastic job of leading this Department. I appreciate Deputy Secretary Jim Loy as well for his outstanding leadership. I want to thank all the officials who are here.

I appreciate the Members of the United States Congress who have come. Two Texans, Mac Thornberry and Jim Turner, I appreciate you all being here. I appreciate Jennifer Dunn from the great State of Washington and Chris Cox from the State of California. Thanks for taking time to honor these employees today.

I appreciate all the employees who are here. I appreciate you working hard for the American people. I'm sure people don't thank you enough. Well, I'm here to thank you as much as an individual possibly can, for working the long hours, for taking the risks on behalf of the security of this country.

Today I had the honor of meeting the family of Agent Jimmy Epling. Jimmy was the

first Department of Homeland Security employee to be killed in the line of duty. He did so rescuing an individual. He risked his life to save a life. And on behalf of our Nation, Monica and Seth and Shaine and Sean and James, and his loving parents, Ken and Amy, thank you for raising such a good son and thank you for having such a good husband. Boys, you need to be proud of your daddy. Thanks for coming.

Two-and-a-half years ago, our Nation saw war and grief arrive on a quiet September morning. From that day to this, we have pursued a clear strategy. We are taking the offensive against the terrorists abroad. We're taking unprecedented measures to protect the American people here at home. The goal of the terrorists is to kill our citizens—that's their goal—and to make Americans live in fear. This Nation refuses to live in fear. We will stand together until this threat to our Nation and to the civilized world is ended.

We have been called to service. We've been called to action, and we accept that responsibility. With fine allies, we are winning the war against the terrorists. We're disrupting terrorist operations. We're cutting off their funding. We are chasing down their leaders one person at a time. We are relentless. We are strong. We refuse to yield. Some two-thirds of Al Qaida's key leaders have been captured or killed. The rest of them hear us breathing down their neck. We're after them. We will not relent. We will bring these killers to justice.

It is vital our Nation speak with a clear voice, and when we speak, we mean what we say. It's essential that this Nation not be a nation of empty words but a nation that is determined to do our duty. I laid out a doctrine a while ago, and it said, "If you harbor a terrorist, if you feed a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorists." I meant what I said, and so did our Nation. And the Taliban, the brutal dictators, the barbarians that ran Afghanistan now fully understand, America will keep its commitments and means what it says.

We delivered an ultimatum to Mr. Saddam Hussein that he listen to the world, disclose and disarm his weapons and weapons programs. It's what the world had said time and time again. The United States said the same thing. We saw a threat. It was time to deal with that threat. Mr. Saddam Hussein had the choice to make. He chose defiance. He now sits in a prison cell, and the Iraqi people are free and America is more secure.

We have said we will deal with weapons of mass destruction. We have shown the world we mean what we say. With our allies, we're taking action to stop the spread of chemical and biological, radiological or nuclear weapons. We're working together with our friends to prevent terror networks from gaining the means to match their hatred. We're confronting states that develop deadly weapons. We're shutting down networks that trade in the means to produce the technologies of mass murder.

Nations like Libya have gotten the message and renounced their weapons programs. The proliferation network of A.Q. Khan, which sold nuclear secrets to Iran and North Korea, is being dismantled. Its top leaders are out of business forever. America will not allow terrorists and outlaw regimes to threaten our Nation and the world with the world's most dangerous technologies.

As we work to make this Nation more secure, we're also working with a broad coalition of nations to spread freedom. America believes that freedom is the Almighty's gift to each and every person who lives in this world. That's what we believe. We have liberated more than 50 million people in Iraq and Afghanistan. Those people have our help and the help of many nations to build free and democratic nations.

We seek to spread the benefits of democracy and tolerance and freedom throughout the greater Middle East. By opposing the stagnation and bitterness that feed terror, this great Nation and our friends are bringing hope to millions, thereby strengthening the long-term security of America and making the world a more peaceful place.

We will stay on the offensive. We will not relent, and as we wage this war abroad, we must remember where it began, here in our homeland. Life in America, in many ways, has returned to normal, and that's positive. It means we're doing our jobs. But life will really never return to normal so long as there's an enemy that lurks in the shadows, that aims to destroy and kill. The enemies

are wounded, but they're not broken. They still have desires to strike America again. That's the reality with which we live. The reality is, vast oceans can no longer protect us, and therefore we must have—and we do have—a clear strategy to defend our homeland. Oh, we'll do everything we can to prevent attacks on America. As we do so, we'll reduce our vulnerabilities and prepare for any attack that might come. That's our duty. That is our collective mission.

To meet the goals, we have tripled Federal funding for homeland security since 2001, to some $30.5 billion. I want to thank the Congress for working with the administration to make sure these good folks have got the ability to implement the strategy to protect our country.

We've undertaken the most sweeping reorganization of the Federal Government since the beginning of the cold war. The FBI has transformed itself into an agency dedicated primarily to the prevention of future terrorist attacks. The Department of Defense has established a new top level command whose priority is to protect the American homeland. We established the Terrorist Threat Integration Center to merge and analyze in a single place all vital intelligence on global terror. We created the Homeland Security Council within the White House—John Gordon is here with us today—to help coordinate all homeland security activities across our Government.

We'll face the terrorist threat for years to come. Our Government is prepared to meet that threat. One of the most important steps we've taken is creating the Department of Homeland Security, combining under one roof, with a clear chain of command, many agencies responsible for protecting our Nation. All of you go to work every day with a single, overriding responsibility, to make this Nation more secure.

Creating the newest Department of our Federal Government was a tough task. It required a lot of hard work, changing some old habits, in order to merge into a new strategy and a new Department. You've accomplished an historic task. In just 12 months, under the leadership of your President, you have made air travel safer; you've strengthened the security of our borders and infrastructure; you've taken steps to protect the American people from dangerous weapons; and you helped prepare our first-responders for any emergency. You faced the challenge in standing up this new Department, and you get a—and a gold star for a job well done.

Since September the 11th attacks, we've taken significant steps to ensure the safety of air travel. DHS is completing a massive overhaul of security at our Nation's airports. Federal air marshals are flying on hundreds of commercial flights every day. We are determined to protect Americans who travel by plane. We're determined to prevent those planes from being used as weapons against us.

The Department of Homeland Security is strengthening control of all our borders and ports of entry, to keep out terrorists and criminals and dangerous materials. We're using technology to allow law-abiding travelers to cross the border quickly and easily, while our officials concentrate on stopping possible threats. We've increased the number of border inspectors and improved access to sophisticated databases.

DHS personnel are checking ships and analyzing manifests to prevent high risk cargo from entering our Nation by sea. DHS officials are also posted at foreign ports, working with other governments to inspect shipments before they're loaded and shipped to America. America welcomes tourists and students and businesspeople, legitimate cargo. Yet, we're working hard—you're working hard—to make sure our border is closed to terrorists and criminals and weapons and illegal drugs.

Third, we've worked with State and local governments and the private sector to strengthen the defenses of our key infrastructure, communication systems and power grids and transportation networks. DHS is helping the operators of chemical facilities improve security.

We're working with Congress on new legislation that establishes uniform standards for security at chemical sites and gives DHS the power to enforce those standards. We've established the National Cyber Security Division to examine cybersecurity incidents and track attacks and coordinate nationwide responses. America's infrastructure drives our

economy and serves our people. We're determined to provide the infrastructure with the best possible protection.

Fourth, we're bringing the best technologies to bear against the threat of chemical and biological weapons. We've placed sophisticated equipment to detect biological agents in many metropolitan areas. We've greatly expanded the strategic national stockpile for drugs and vaccines and medical supplies. We now have on hand, for instance, enough smallpox vaccine to immunize every American in the case of an emergency.

Last year, I proposed Project BioShield, which will speed the development of new vaccines and treatments for biological agents that could be used in a terrorist attack. Congress needs to send this vital legislation to my desk. Attacks from a chemical or biological weapon is one of the gravest threats our country has ever faced. We're doing what is necessary to protect this country.

Even with all these measures, there's no such thing as perfect security in a vast and free country, so as a fifth step, we've worked to improve the ability of State and local authorities to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies. My administration has provided over $13 billion to equip and train local officials, such as firefighters and police officers and EMS workers and health professionals. I thank the Congress for their work on this important measure.

The new budget proposes additional money, $5 billion, to continue to help the first-responders. We're focusing more of our resources on the areas of greatest risk. It's essential we set priorities with the taxpayers' money, to better protect the American people. And so DHS is creating a national incident management plan, a strategy to make sure taxpayers' money is wisely spent. Under this plan, first-responders at all levels of government will know their responsibilities, will follow a clear chain of command, and will be able to work with each other effectively in a time of crisis.

Your hard work is already paying off. The system has proven its worth in coordinating responses to such emergencies as Hurricane Isabel and the California wildfires. America's first-responders are the first on the scene of danger. They need a strategy. They need coordination. They need training, and they will get our help.

This administration has also worked to ensure that those charged with defending America from the threat of terror have all the tools necessary to fight the terrorists. One of those essential tools is the PATRIOT Act, which enables Federal law enforcement officials to track terrorists, to disrupt their cells, and to seize their assets. For years, we've used similar provisions to catch embezzlers or drug traffickers. My attitude is pretty simple on this matter: If these methods are good enough for hunting criminals, they're even more important for hunting terrorists.

The PATRIOT Act made other important changes official to the success of this new Department. It tore down the walls that blocked the FBI and the CIA from sharing intelligence. It's hard to track terrorists if we can't share information. It was essential that all elements of law enforcement be able to work together to secure this homeland. The PATRIOT Act imposed tough new penalties on terrorists and those who support them. We want to make it abundantly clear to anybody who wants to hurt America: There will be significant penalty. These are responsible measures, fully consistent with the United States Constitution.

Key provisions of the PATRIOT Act are set to expire next year. The terrorist threat will not expire on that schedule. You and others in law enforcement need this vital legislation to protect our citizens. We cannot afford to let down our guard. Congress must renew the PATRIOT Act.

For the men and women of the Department of Homeland Security, the past year has been one of progress and achievement. You have risen to confront a new threat and to meet unprecedented challenges. You have responded to hurricanes and tornadoes and wildfires with incredible skill and speed. You've worked hard to protect our borders. You've saved lives. You're prepared for greater dangers. You've passed every single test. You should be proud of all you've accomplished, and you need to know America is proud of you.

You have done a lot in a year. It's been an incredible year of accomplishment, but

none of us charged with defending this Nation can rest. We must never forget the day when the terrorists left their mark of murder on our Nation. We must never forget that day. We will remember the sorrow and the anger. We'll also remember the resolve we felt that day. All of us have a responsibility that goes on. We will protect this country, whatever it takes.

God bless your work, and may God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:06 a.m. at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. In his remarks, he referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; A.Q. Khan, former head of Pakistan's nuclear weapons program; and Gen. John A. Gordon, USAF (Ret.), Assistant to the President and Homeland Security Adviser. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Further Deployment of United States Military Forces in Haiti

March 2, 2004

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In my report to the Congress of February 25, 2004, I provided information on the deployment of combat-equipped U.S. Armed Forces to Haiti. I am providing this additional report, consistent with the War Powers Resolution, to help ensure that the Congress is kept fully informed on U.S. military activities in Haiti.

On February 29, 2004, approximately 200 additional U.S. combat-equipped, military personnel from the U.S. Joint Forces Command deployed to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to secure key facilities, to facilitate the continued repatriation of Haitian migrants, to help create conditions in the capital for the anticipated arrival of the Multinational Interim Force, to protect American citizens as may be required, and for other purposes consistent with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1529 (2004). I anticipate additional combat-equipped military personnel will be deployed to Haiti until the situation in Haiti stabilizes. The forces that the United States deployed and continues to deploy will be part of the Multinational Interim Force.

The United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1529 on February 29, 2004. It authorized the deployment of a Multinational Interim Force to contribute to a more secure and more stable environment in the Haitian capital and elsewhere, to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance and the access of humanitarian aid workers to the Haitian people, and for other purposes.

It is anticipated U.S. forces will redeploy when the Multinational Interim Force has transitioned to a follow-on United Nations stabilization force.

I have taken this action pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Ted Stevens, President pro tempore of the Senate.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency Blocking Property of Persons Undermining Democratic Processes or Institutions in Zimbabwe

March 2, 2004

On March 6, 2003, by Executive Order 13288, I declared a national emergency blocking the property of persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706). I took this action to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions, thus contributing to the deliberate breakdown in

the rule of law in Zimbabwe, to politically motivated violence and intimidation in that country, and to political and economic instability in the southern African region.

Because the actions and policies of these persons continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on March 6, 2003, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency must continue in effect beyond March 6, 2004. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency blocking the property of persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 2, 2004.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 4, 2004]

NOTE: This notice was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 3, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on March 5.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Zimbabwe

March 2, 2004

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication. It states that the national emergency blocking the property of persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe is to continue in effect beyond March 6, 2004.

The crisis caused by the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions has not been resolved. These actions and policies pose a continuing, unusual, and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared on March 6, 2003, blocking the property of persons undermining democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 2, 2004.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 3. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks at the White House Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives in Los Angeles, California

March 3, 2004

Thank you all for coming. Thanks for coming. Let's see, you've been here since 8:30—[*laughter*]—all you need is another speech. [*Laughter*]

I'm honored that here in the City of Angels, Mr. Mayor, in the City of Angels there are so many people doing God's work. And let me put your mind at ease. We're talking about healing our Nation; we're not talking politics. We're all here to do everything in our power to save lives. And by saving a life, we improve our community. And as we improve communities, we improve our Nation.

I'm here to thank you for hearing that call. Actually, I shouldn't be thanking you; I should be thanking a higher power for giving you the call. You're what we call social entrepreneurs. An entrepreneur is somebody who is willing to take risk, take a risk for a reward. And I just met with some social entrepreneurs. I'll be sharing some of the stories in a minute.

These stories really always lift my soul because it reminds me of the true strength of America, the fact that there are people from all walks of life, all faiths willing to take time out of their lives to make somebody else's life better. That's the true strength of the country. We talk about our military might or we talk about our wallets, but the true strength of the country is the fact that there are decent, honorable citizens who would like to love their neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves.

And so here we are at the Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. That's a pretty fancy word for our Government trying to tell you that we're trying to change the culture in Washington, DC, to welcome people of faith in helping meet social objectives. That's what this means. That's a long title for, the hope and healing of faith-based services are an integral part of working together to make America a more hopeful place for all. And it is essential for those of us in Government to recognize the vital work that faith-based programs are able to do.

I always—"always"—sometimes say Government can hand out money—and I'm going to talk about some of the money we're trying to hand out—but Government can't put hope in a person's heart or a sense of purpose in a person's life. That is done by loving individuals who spread their love. That's what happens. And it seems like to me it makes sense for those of us who are honored to hold office to gather that strength, rally that strength, call upon that strength, and, most importantly, support that strength from the halls of Government.

And so there's a practical aspect to this conference, and that is for members of my administration and others to come and explain how you can access the Federal monies. There is a—hopefully, you walk away from here hearing a commitment from the Government. And that is, if you decide to interface with taxpayers' money, you won't have to change your mission. See, I believe this: It's hard to be a faith-based program if you can't practice your faith.

And I fully recognize there are a lot of social entrepreneurs who are nervous about interfacing with Government. What we're working on is to change the culture, to recognize that there are results, fantastic results being achieved, and that those of us who are policymakers must welcome those who are achieving the good results of the work of faith.

And so thanks for coming. I'm honored that Alphonso is with me. He is the Acting Secretary of HUD. It means he hasn't—I knew him in Dallas; he was running the housing authority there in Dallas. He's a very capable citizen. He's "Acting" because the Senate hasn't approved him yet. I'm sure they will. But he's going to do a fine job. I'll talk about some of the record of HUD here in a minute, about making sure that Federal money coming out of HUD is—that faith-based programs can access that money.

John Walters is here with me. He's the Director of the National Drug Control Policy. Where are you, John? Somewhere. There he is. Thanks for coming, John. His job is to work on the demand side of the equation, to work with people to encourage kids not to use drugs. No better place to do that, by the way, than faith-based programs. His job is to work as well on interdicting drugs, to disrupt the supply. His job as well—and we're going to talk a little bit about it later on—is to work with those whose bodies and souls are consumed by drug and alcohol, to save those lives as well.

I appreciate Charlie Curie here. He's the administration of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services of the Department of Health and Human Services. The Department of Health and Human Services spends a lot of Federal money, and a lot of that Federal money needs to be accessed by the faith community as you work to achieve social objectives.

I want to thank the mayor. Mr. Mayor—the fact that he has taken time out of his day to come and see little old me—[*laughter*]—more importantly, to see you is a testimony to his understanding that the faith community in Los Angeles can help him do his job better; that people of all walks of life—thank you, Mayor, for coming. And he brought his son, Jackson. Jackson is known as "Mr. President." He just won the class election. It's a pretty good title, Jackson. [*Laughter*]

I know there's a lot of mayors here and county supervisors. I want to thank the mayors for coming. I want to thank the county supervisors for coming. It is really essential that local officials tap into the great strength of the faith community, doesn't matter what faith, by the way—all faiths. All faiths have heard a universal call, and the idea of capturing this strength to help your communities become better places for all citizens is good public policy. It makes a lot of sense. I see the mayors shaking their heads. Thanks for coming.

I'm proud of my friend Bishop Charles Blake, is with us. Thank you for coming. Reverend Chip Murray as well, Reverend Murray. You know, thinking of these two great pastors reminds me of the story about the guy who's giving the sermon, about halfway through, and a person pops up in the first pew and he screams, "Use me, Lord, use me." And the reverend keeps on preaching. The next Sunday he gets up there again, another stemwinder. The guy screams, "Use me, Lord, use me." So finally, he comes to him and he says, "Fine, we'll be glad to use you. Why don't you scrape and paint all the pews?" The next Sunday he's preaching, the guy pops up and says, "Use me, Lord, use me—but only in an advisory capacity." [*Laughter*] These two guys—these two men are not advisers; they're doers. They're running vibrant churches that are changing lives.

I'm proud that John Bryant, the CEO of Operation Hope, is with us. Cecelia, thanks for being here as well. Thank you, John.

Bishop Zavala is with us—Bishop, thank you for coming—from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. There's a lot of great faiths in our country. Faith-based programs were initiated by a lot of faiths, but the Catholic Church has always been on the forefront of faith-based programs. The Catholic Church is—when you think about whether Government shouldn't interface with faith, I mean, the Catholic Church has been providing hospitals and schools, and they've been making a big difference in neighborhoods. I'm honored you're here.

I appreciate Robert Schuller coming—I'm honored you're here—from the Crystal Cathedral. They even beamed his program into Midland, Texas. [*Laughter*] Thanks for coming, sir. You made a huge difference.

I appreciate the Hillel Hebrew Academy Choir. Thank you all for coming.

When I landed at Air Force One, one of the things I try to do is to pick out a local hero and to herald, in this case, her achievement toward making this country a better place. Charlotte Van Fleet is with us. Charlotte is probably humiliated I introduced her in front of so many people. She's a mentor. She mentors young children. She heard a call. Oh, it probably doesn't sound like much, except it does to the child she mentors. And she is—her spirit is strong. She's saving a life. You teach a child to read, you've saved a life. The new civil right, by the way, in the 21st century, is teaching somebody to read. You can't accomplish much in America unless you can read. And here's a soul who is willing to take time out of her life to mentor a child.

The reason I introduced Charlotte is not only to hold her up as an example but to call upon others in this community of Los Angeles and across the State of California to listen to your heart and to realize you can make a significant difference in our society by teaching one child to read. She teaches a lot of child to—she mentors a lot of children. But all you've got to do is, if you want to be a part of this world, an active part of the world, is to do what Charlotte Van Fleet has done and to make a difference in people's lives in a positive way. I'm honored you came out to the airport. Thanks for coming, appreciate you being here.

The reason the Faith-Based Initiative is so important is because, in spite of our plenty, there are a lot of people in our society with shattered lives. In spite of the fact that we've got large bankrolls and wealth, beyond imagination for many people in the world, in our own society there's darkness and loneliness and addiction and wonder—wonder whether their life is worth anything. And that's the reality of the society in which we live today.

And all of us who have got a responsibility in our society must work to do something about it, must work to address those seemingly intractable problems. But those problems can be solved. They can be helped. But sometimes we have to try a different route.

Sometimes the old way hasn't worked. Sometimes the prison system needs a little different look to it. Sometimes the drug and alcohol programs need a different curriculum. Sometimes the probation offices, which do fine work in our communities, need a little boost, need a little help in their mission. And that's what we're here to talk about.

We're really here to talk about miracles. And they happen in all kinds of ways in our society, if you really step back and take a look. I talked to—I heard some people who I think would say, "My life has changed because of a miracle. God loves you, and I love you. And you can count on both of us." This is a powerful message that people who wonder about their future can hear—powerful message. And it's a message that a lot of people can spread.

The sample of folks I talked to today is—I'm confident represented the crowd here, and there's some really powerful stories. Ralph Plumb—he is the president of the Union Rescue Mission. He described what it's like to provide a place of love in the midst of such despair. And he said it's dark in the neighborhood in which the Rescue Mission exists. On the other hand, I could tell from how he talked, inside the building, there is a radiance that was changing people's lives. I appreciate Ralph. Ralph talked about wandering the world as a missionary, I guess is the right way to describe, and here he is in inner-city Los Angeles providing shelter for the homeless and hope for the addicted and love for the lonely.

And then there's Pastor John Baker, the founder of Celebrate Recovery. Big John is with us. He is a—he and I shared something in common along with somebody else I'm going to introduce. We used to drink too much. And our hearts changed, and then we quit. That is a tried and true formula. [*Laughter*] The problem is, Government is not good at changing hearts. But people like John Baker is—been good about it and successful doing that.

Reverend Carmen Warner-Robbins is with us, who formed Welcome Home Ministries. She formed it. It's a ministry. She's a social entrepreneur. When I said she formed it, that's what an entrepreneur does; they found things. She's a founder. She decided she wanted to make a difference in somebody's life, so she started a program to welcome women from the prison systems and then convinced women to go back into the prison systems to change hearts. And it's a powerful lesson of what one person can do.

I'm sure I'm looking at hundreds of social entrepreneurs here as well, people who have started ministries because they heard a calling. I met with Mark Borovitz and Harold Rothstein and Harriet Rossetto. Harriet is married to Mark. Mark is now a rabbi. He was in prison. He was addicted. He told me the story about how the rabbi in the prison got a hold of Mark and said, "I'm never going to forget you. I love you. I want to help you." And so Mark runs into Harriet, his wife, who has started a—she, too, is a social entrepreneur, by the way, at Beit T'Shuvah, program for addicts. She sees him in the prison. He's kind of a—probably feeling his oats pretty good about that time. [*Laughter*] She says, "Fine, why don't you—if you want to do something constructive, why don't you just show up at our program?" So he did, 3 years later. And now he's the rabbi of the program. She's the CEO.

And they helped save Harold's life. I can't properly put into words what he said. I'm just telling you, the guy was lost, and now he is found, thanks to these two good souls. Harold said, "I cannot say enough about the program and what I continue to learn here." That's what he said. And he said, "How can I repay someone for saving my life?" You know what he's done? He saved somebody else's life, is how you repay someone for saving your life. He's a part of the program too. I want to thank you all for coming.

Finally, I met Leticia Chavez-Paulette. Leticia was a drug addict in prison. She was a single mom. She lost custody of her child because of her addiction. And she got involved with Celebrate Recovery, and it changed her life. And she has rebuilt her life. She said, "to see how God forgives me, and therefore I could forgive myself." That's what she said, powerful experience for her, "knowing that it was His grace that kept me alive for such a time as this." That's Leticia's words. This is a person who was lost in prison, a drug addict who lost her family, and now she's here with the ability to say those

words with clarity. And where's little Isaac? There he is. And Isaac, her son, is back with his mama.

These stories are being written every day in America. Every single day this is happening. We never hear half of them or any—I never, but—I barely hear any of them, but I just know they're happening. You know they're happening because you're on the frontline of making them happen.

When you hear these kind of stories and you're in a position like I'm in or the mayor's in or somebody else is in, in elected office, you say, "Well, gosh, how can we spread—how can we help make this happen more?" It's really a practical application, it seems to me, of taxpayers' money to try to encourage this to happen more.

And there's been a big debate about this, of course, because we never want—we want to make sure there's a separation of church and state The state should never be the church, and the church should never be the state. That's clear—that's clear. But if we have a social objective and you've got people of faith helping achieve that objective, doesn't it make sense for the Government to not fear faith but to welcome faith in meeting common goals?

And there's a resource issue. We talked to the good folks that I just introduced, and I think if you ask them their biggest problem they'd say, "Well, we need to expand. There's more souls to be saved. We need a little extra space for our rescue mission." And the Government has got resources. We spend a lot of money on social welfare programs. And so what I'm here to talk to you today is to—how to make sure that you have a chance to access that money. You can access that money without losing your mission.

Now, there are some rules. You can't use Federal money to proselytize. We want to make sure the church and the state stay separate. But you can use Federal money to help a person quit drinking. You can use Federal money to help a person find housing. You can't, if you're a faith-based organization, say, "only Methodists allowed." You know, you can say, "All drunks are welcome." [*Laughter*] But you can't pick and choose a person's religion. In other words, there are some certain guidelines necessary to make sure that we don't violate the rules of church and state.

But it is essential that when it comes to grantmaking, we asked a simple question: Can you achieve the objective? What are the results? Too often in Government it is, you know, what is the religion you practice, and if you practice, you can't access the money. That's not the right question. The right question is, can you save lives? And if you can, in my judgment, you ought to be able to access Federal money through the grantmaking process.

And so I got a little frustrated in Washington because I couldn't get the bill passed out of the Congress. They were arguing process. I kept saying, "Wait a minute, there are entrepreneurs all over our country who are making a huge difference in somebody's life; they're helping us meet a social objective." Congress wouldn't act, so I signed an Executive order—that means I did it on my own. It says we're going to open up billions of dollars in grant money competition to faith-based charities. And that's what's happening, and that's what we're here to talk about today. That's why we're having these conferences. We've had 11 conferences so far. I spoke to the second one and now the 11th one. And this is a way for those of us in the administration that are focused on this to come and explain to people how best to access this money, how best to reach out for it.

I'm a person who believes in results; I think you can hear that in my voice. So the other day I called together Cabinet Ministers—Alphonso was one—I said, "Well, show me what you've done thus far. Have you been able to get Federal grant money out the door? If there's an issue, I need to know about it."

You see, I set up a faith-based office in the White House. You're about to hear from Jim Towey who's the—runs the faith-based office. He's an incredible guy. By the way, Towey was Mother Teresa's lawyer. [*Laughter*] And that's a pretty litigious society when Mother Teresa needs a lawyer, isn't it? [*Laughter*] But his job is to make sure these conferences get set up and to have an office to answer people's questions about

how to get involved in the grantmaking process. My job is to get the initiative going, is to stay on it, not yield, and then to ask the questions to the people responsible for getting the money out the door, how are we doing.

And so I'm going to give you some of the results. In a year, there was $144-million increase in the amount that HUD and HHS grant dollars were granted to faith-based organizations. So from last year to this year, there's a $144-million increase; the two agencies granted $1.1 billion to faith-based groups in 2003. That's a measurable number. It's not bad. It's a pretty good start. There's just a lot of—there's just a lot more money there. And so I keep talking to these—to Alphonso and Tommy and others in my administration—that would be Tommy Thompson. I said, "We're going to watch you carefully. Make sure your faith-based offices that you have set up in your cabinet move the money out in a way that is—that honors the Executive order I signed."

There are some issues with the money moving out, by the way. Some of the grant money is what they call formula-based money, and so it immediately goes to the State. And it's essential that all States have faith-based offices so that money that comes from the State to the city. For example, Mayor Hahn will have the flexibility to use it to empower faith-based programs to help him and the city of Los Angeles meet objectives. The State of California, in my judgment, should have a very viable, strong faith-based office so that all Federal money becomes more available to the faith programs.

Last year at HUD, more than half of the Section 202 funding for elderly housing went to faith-based programs. That's a great idea, if you think about it, that if a church or a synagogue or a mosque is able to take elderly housing money and help meet the needs of parishioners or people in their congregations.

We've seen an increase in the number of first-time recipients. That's one of the things I wanted to make sure that was happening at the Federal level. It's important to measure and to make sure that objectives are being met. And what—really what we don't want is all the money going to two or three organizations. That doesn't make any sense. If part of the objective is to—part of the objective is to encourage startups, to use an economic term, is to encourage people who have got an idea and they think they can make a difference in somebody's life to feel confident and bold about their vision.

And again, for Alphonso—I guess he's the reason she introduced me; she seems to be doing quite well—that over $113 million in grants out of HUD went to first-time recipients, small amounts of money to small programs to help them get started.

Once this program—to give you a sense of the new grant money, to hopefully inspire those of you there who are wondering whether this makes sense for you or not—it's called the Fishing School in DC. I went there as the President when I was first elected. It's a little school in the heart of a tough neighborhood. It's really an old house. And a fellow got inspired and said, "I want to provide a safe haven, a place of love for children who don't have anywhere to go after school." And it is a faith-based program. It is based upon God's love. As one of the teachers told me, kids need prayer. Faith teaches them that God can do anything. That's kind of the motto for the program, in a way. It's their operating credo. And they're now recipients of Federal money.

In other words, it's a—what I'm telling you is you don't have to be a mega church or a monster synagogue or a massive—you just don't have to be—big helps, but what we really want to make sure as well—and I hope this seminar helps you understand that, and if it's not, I need to know—is whether or not the money is actually going to help startups as well and smaller organizations that really do feel like they're lost out there in trying to access grant money.

Again, I want to reiterate one point. I'm sure there's some reticence, and I would be reticent too, if I were you, at first. Why do I want to be involved with the Federal Government, is the question you're asking. [*Laughter*] No, really, really, when you think about it, sometimes with that sort of money comes all kinds of restrictions, some of it having to do with whether you can practice your faith or not, some of it having to do with the size of your building or whatever, the

temperature of the room in which you're supposed to be doing your work. [*Laughter*]

And as I told you, we're changing the culture. It's hard in Washington. This is a fairly heavy lift for a lot of people who are used to bureaucracies, as you can imagine. But one of the things that I can assure you, our intention is to make sure that you're able to practice your faith as you fulfill your mission. I told you earlier, you can't be faith-based if you can't practice your faith. That's pretty practical.

But we are going to work. The offices we've set up in these different Departments, Labor, Agriculture, HHS, and HUD—as a matter of fact, agriculture secretaries from California came in the other day. I said, "What do you need a faith-based office for?" If you happen to live in rural California, there's a lot of housing money coming out of the Agriculture Department, by the way. It started off probably from migrant worker programs. There's nothing better, by the way, than to have a faith-based organization be involved with housing. It's a natural extension of a ministry from any faith, it seems like to me.

But we're working hard to change the culture. We're working hard to make sure the regulations are not onerous. We're working hard to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit as opposed to discourage it.

I do want to talk about a couple of special initiatives, and then I'm sure you're spoken out. [*Laughter*] I guess that means you listen to too many speeches. But one of the special initiatives I'm working with Congress on, I think we're making pretty good—I know we're making good progress, is addiction. A few people use a lot of drugs in our society, and therefore, it seems to make sense to focus resources on the few.

And this is a program that the Congress has responded to, with about $100 million in the appropriations process, starting today, as a matter of fact. Money is now available to fund patients who then can take their funding to the program that meets their needs. It's a little different approach, when you think about it. A lot of times in the past, we've funded the program. Now we've decided to fund the addict and let the addict choose his or her best place to find what works. And so for those of you who are in the drug counseling, alcohol treatment programs, there's some new opportunities to go help find people to help you save lives.

Mentoring programs—I've always felt that the toughest, toughest pull for a citizen of our country is to have your mom and dad in prison. And we need mentoring programs that will mentor young children whose mom or dad is in prison. No better place to mentor a child than in a faith-based program, by the way; no better place where the word "love" actually rings true. And there's mentoring program available there.

In my State of the Union, I talked about 600,000 inmates that will be released from prison. I really think we need to think differently about how we help save lives of people in prison and coming out of prison. It seems like to me that—listen, the probation officers of your community work hard, and many of them are really good at what they do. But it seems to me that a wise approach to prisoner reentry is through a faith-based program, where the prisoner is able to be welcomed by a person of faith as a—as part of the probation experience or parole experience, and that the faith-based program have the ability, for example, to access worker trainer money. And so you can have a person come, be loved, be welcomed, be nourished, and then they—practical application of Federal dollars to help that person gain a skill to work. It's what the faith initiative is meant to do. It's meant to take the true strength of this country and help save lives.

And I want to thank you. I'm really here to thank you for what you're doing for setting such a good example. You're soldiers in the armies of compassion. You're people who have put on the mighty, mighty armor of the Almighty in order to save lives, one person at a time—one person at a time.

See, the society we live in can be changed. I've seen it change. I've heard the stories of those who have been changed and are changing it. And it's that—it is that massive effort by people of concern and people of love to save lives which will change our Nation for the better. In the midst of our plenty, there's darkness, but there's always hope. In the

midst of plenty, there is sadness and loneliness, but there's always a soul to put your arm around you and say, "I love you."

I'm here to call—to thank you for what you do. I'm here to spell out a practical strategy by those of us who are involved with the dispensing of taxpayers' money to help nourish the armies of compassion and to make sure this great country of ours, the greatest on the face of the Earth, holds out hope for every single citizen who is a citizen of our land.

Thank you for what you do. May God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:06 p.m. at the Los Angeles Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor James K. Hahn of Los Angeles, CA; Alphonso R. Jackson, Acting Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development; Bishop Charles E. Blake, West Angeles Church of God in Christ; Rev. Cecil L. "Chip" Murray, senior minister, First A.M.E. Church, Los Angeles; Rev. Dr. Cecelia Williams Bryant, wife of Rev. John Richard Bryant; Bishop Gabino Zavala, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Los Angeles; Dr. Robert H. Schuller, pastor, Crystal Cathedral; and Tom Lewis, founder, the Fishing School.

Remarks at a Bush-Cheney Reception in Los Angeles

March 3, 2004

Thank you all very much. Thanks for coming. Thank you all for coming. Appreciate you coming. Please be seated. Thanks for the warm welcome. It is great to be back in Los Angeles. I'm thankful you all are here.

I'm aware that they handed out the Oscars last Sunday night. "Terminator 3" didn't win any. [*Laughter*] But the star of the movie had a pretty good year. I know he's new to politics, but he is getting used to all the lights and the cameras. I used to think my brother Jeb was the coolest Governor. By electing Arnold Schwarzenegger, the voters of California have shown that no party can take this State for granted.

The Vice President and I are going to be spending some quality time in the State of California. With your help, we're going to make California part of a nationwide victory in November of '04. Speaking of the Vice President, he's doing a fine job. The country has had no finer Vice President than Dick Cheney. Mother may have a second opinion. [*Laughter*]

It's good to see the Desert Moms here. Those are the ones who didn't go through the background check. [*Laughter*] But recently, Laura was in the desert with the Moms. And she sends her best to not only the Moms but all the folks here. I'm really proud of Laura. She is a fabulous First Lady and a great wife.

I want to thank my friend Brad Freeman, who has been a loyal friend. He's the State finance chairman here in California. I want to thank my friend Gerry Parsky, who's the State campaign general chairman. I want to thank my friend Mercer Reynolds from Cincinnati, Ohio, who is the chairman of the Bush-Cheney reelect campaign. I appreciate the fact that Bill Simon is here and his wife, Cindy. I want to thank them for having served.

I want to thank all the grassroots activists who are here. [*Applause*] There you go. I appreciate my friend Rabbi Marvin Hier, who gave the blessing. He has a wonderful heart. It sets an incredibly important tone for the country. I want to thank Art Yoon, who's the mayor pro tem of Hermosa Beach, for leading the pledge.

But most of all, I want to thank you all for being our friend. Thank you for helping us. Thank you for getting ready for this campaign.

Last night, I placed a call to Senator Kerry. I told him I was looking forward to a spirited campaign. I congratulated him on his victory. This should be an interesting debate on the issues. He spent two decades in Congress; he's built up quite a record. [*Laughter*] In fact, Senator Kerry has been in Washington long enough to take both sides on just about every issue.

The voters will have a very clear choice this year between keeping the tax relief that is moving this economy forward or putting the burden of higher taxes back on the American people. It's a choice between an America that leads the world with strength and confidence or an America that is uncertain

in the face of danger. I'm ready for this campaign. I look forward to setting the alternative squarely before the American people.

We've achieved great things the past 3 years. But most importantly, we have a positive vision for the years ahead, a positive vision for winning the war against terror and extending peace and freedom, a positive vision for creating jobs and promoting opportunity, a positive vision for compassion here at home. We'll leave no doubt where we stand, and we will win on the 2nd of November.

The last 3 years have brought serious challenges, and we have given serious answers. We came to office with a stock market in decline, an economy heading into recession. We delivered historic tax relief, and now our economy is the fastest growing of any industrialized nation.

We confronted corporate criminals that cost people their jobs and their savings, so we passed strong corporate reforms and made it clear we will not tolerate dishonesty in the boardrooms of America.

We saw war and grief arrive on a quiet September morning, so we pursued the terrorist enemy across the world. We captured or killed many of the key leaders of the Al Qaida network. And the rest of them will learn there is no cave or hole deep enough to hide from American justice.

We confronted the dangers of state-sponsored terror and the spread of weapons of mass destruction, so we ended the two most violent and dangerous regimes on Earth. We freed over 50 million people. And once again, America is proud to lead the armies of liberation.

When Dick Cheney and I came to Washington, we found a military that was underfunded and underappreciated, so we gave our military the resources and respect they deserve. And today, no one in the world can question the skill and the strength and the spirit of the United States military.

When we came to office, people had gotten used to gridlock, and old problems were used to score political points. Old problems were politicized and debated and then just passed on from year to year. But we came to Washington to get things done. We passed major reforms to raise the standards in our public schools. We passed reforms in Medicare to get prescription drugs and choices to our seniors. We have chosen to lead, and we have delivered results for the American people.

It is the President's job to confront problems, not to pass them on to future Presidents and future generations. A President needs to step up, make the hard decisions, keep his commitments, and that is exactly how I will continue to lead our country.

Great events will turn on this election. The man who sits in the Oval Office will set the course of the war on terror and the direction of our economy. The security and prosperity of America are at stake. My opponent hasn't offered much in the way of strategies to win the war or policies to expand our economy. So far, all we hear from that side is a lot of old bitterness and partisan anger. Anger is not an agenda for the future of America. My administration has taken on the big issues with optimism and resolve and determination, and we stand ready to lead this Nation for 4 more years.

A big issue for every family in America is the Federal tax burden. With the largest tax relief since Ronald Reagan was President, we've left more money in the hands that earned it. By spending and investing and helping create new jobs, the American people have used their money far better than the Government would have.

Because we acted, our economy is growing stronger. The economy grew in the second half of 2003 at the fastest rate in nearly 20 years. Productivity is high. Business investment is rising. Interest rates and inflation are low. Homeownership is the highest rate ever. Manufacturing is increasing. We've added 336,000 new jobs over the last 5 months. The tax relief we passed is working.

My opponent has plans for those tax cuts. He wants to take them away, and he would use that money to expand the Federal Government. I have a better idea: To keep this economy growing and to create jobs, the tax cuts must be permanent.

And we must do more to keep the economy growing. We need to maintain fiscal discipline in Washington, DC. We need to protect small-business owners and employees

from frivolous lawsuits and needless regulation. We need to help control the costs of health care by passing Federal medical liability reform. We need to continue to open up markets for America's farmers and ranchers and entrepreneurs and manufacturers. We need to pass sound energy legislation to modernize the electricity system and make our country less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

My opponent talks about job creation too, but he's against every one of these job-creating measures. Empty talk about jobs and economic isolation won't get anyone hired. The way to create jobs is our pro-growth, pro-entrepreneur agenda.

This economy of ours is going through a time of change, and we're helping people to gain the skills and security to make a good living. All skills start with education, so I worked with Congress to pass the No Child Left Behind Act. This is a good law that is challenging the soft bigotry of low expectations. It's a law that is bringing higher standards and accountability to every public school so that not one single child is left behind.

And there's more to do. We have a plan to help high school students who fall behind in reading and math. We have a plan to help community colleges train workers for the industries that are creating the most new jobs. You see, this administration understands clearly that education is the gateway to a hopeful future, and that gate must be open to all Americans.

We're also working to promote an ownership society in America in which more people own their own homes and build their own savings. We want more people owning their own small businesses. We want people to own and manage their own health care plans. We want younger workers to be able to own and manage their own retirement under Social Security. I understand this, that when people have solid assets, they gain independence and security and dignity and more control over their own future. I believe in private property so much, I want everybody to have some in America.

On issue after issue, the American people have a clear choice. My opponent is against personal retirement accounts. He's against putting patients in charge of Medicare. He's against tax relief. He seems to be against every idea that gives Americans more authority, more choices, and more control over our own lives. It's the same old Washington mindset: They'll give the orders, and you will pay the bills. I've got news for the Washington crowd. America has gone beyond that way of thinking, and we're not going back. I trust the people of this country. I trust the people to make the best decisions for their own money, for their own health, for their own retirement.

Our future also depends on America's leadership in this world. The momentum of freedom in our time is strong, but we still face serious dangers. Al Qaida is wounded but not broken. Terrorists are testing our will in Afghanistan and Iraq. Regimes of North Korea and Iran are challenging the peace. If America shows weakness and uncertainty in this decade, the world will drift toward tragedy. This will not happen on my watch. This Nation is strong and confident in the cause of freedom. And today, no friend or enemy doubts the word of the United States of America.

America and our allies gave an ultimatum to the terror regime in Afghanistan. The Taliban chose defiance, and the Taliban are no longer in power. America and our allies gave an ultimatum to the terror regime in Iraq. The dictator chose defiance; the dictator now sits in a prison cell. September the 11th, 2001, taught a lesson I will never forget: America must confront threats before they fully materialize.

In Iraq, my administration looked at the intelligence information, and we saw a threat. Members of Congress looked at the intelligence, and they saw a threat. The United Nations Security Council looked at the intelligence, and it saw a threat. The previous administration and Congress looked at the intelligence and made regime change in Iraq the policy of our country. In 2002, the United Nations Security Council yet again demanded a full accounting of Saddam Hussein's weapons programs. As he had for over a decade, Saddam Hussein refused to comply. So we had a choice to make, either to take the word of a madman or take action to defend America and the world. Faced with

that choice, I will defend America every time. [*Applause*] Thank you.

My opponent admits that Saddam Hussein was a threat. He just didn't support my decision to remove Saddam from power. Maybe he was hoping Saddam would lose the election in Iraq. [*Laughter*] We showed the dictator and a watching world that America means what it says. Because our coalition acted, Saddam's torture chambers are closed. Because we acted, Saddam's weapons programs are ended forever. Because we acted, nations like Libya have gotten the message and renounced their own weapons programs. Because we acted, an example of democracy is rising at the very heart of the Middle East. Because we acted, the world is more free, and America is more secure.

We still face thugs and terrorists in Iraq who would rather go on killing the innocent than accept the advance of liberty. They know that a free Iraq will be a major defeat in the cause of terror. This coalition of killers is trying to shake our will. They don't understand America. America will never be intimidated by thugs and assassins. We are aggressively striking the terrorists in Iraq. We're on the offensive. We'll defeat them there so we don't have to face them in our own country.

We're calling on other nations to help Iraq to build a free society. A free Iraq will make us all more safe. We're standing with the Iraqi people as they assume more of their own defense and move toward self-government. These are not easy tasks, but they are essential tasks. We will finish what we have begun. We will win this essential victory in the war on terror.

On national security, Americans have the clearest possible choice. My opponent says he approves of bold action in the world, but only if other countries don't object. [*Laughter*] I'm all for united action, and so are the 34 coalition partners in Iraq right now. Yet America must never outsource America's national security decisions to leaders of other countries.

Some are skeptical that the war on terror is really a war at all. My opponent said the war on terror is far less of a military operation and far more of an intelligence-gathering, law enforcement operation. I disagree. Our Nation followed this approach after the World Trade Center was bombed in 1993. The matter was handled in the courts and thought by some to be settled. But the terrorists were still training in Afghanistan, plotting in other nations, and drawing up more ambitious plans. After the chaos and carnage of September the 11th, it is not enough to serve our enemies with legal papers. With those attacks, the terrorists and their supporters declared war on the United States of America, and war is what they got.

At bases across our country and the world, I've had the privilege of meeting with the men and women of our military. These good folks are defending our country. They're sacrificing for our security. I've seen their great decency and their unselfish courage. I can assure you, ladies and gentlemen, the cause of freedom is in good hands.

This Nation is prosperous and strong, yet we need to remember that our greatest strength is in the hearts and souls of our citizens. We're strong because of the values we try to live by, courage and compassion, reverence and integrity. We're strong because of the institutions that help give us direction and purpose, families and schools and religious congregations. These values and institutions are fundamental to our lives, and they deserve the respect of our Government. We stand for the fair treatment of faith-based groups so they can receive Federal support for the works of compassion and healing. We will not stand for Government discrimination against people of faith.

We stand for welfare reforms that require work and strengthen marriage, which have helped millions of Americans find independence and dignity. We will not stand for any attempt to weaken those reforms and to send people back into lives of dependence. We stand for a culture of life in which every person counts and every person matters. We will not stand for the treatment of any life as a commodity to be experimented upon, exploited, or cloned.

We stand for the confirmation of judges who strictly and faithfully interpret the law. We will not stand for judges who undermine democracy by legislating from the bench and try to remake the culture of America by court order.

We stand for a culture of responsibility in America. We're changing the culture of America from one that has said, "If it feels good, do it," and "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture in which each of us understands we are responsible for the decisions we make in life. If you are fortunate enough to be a mother or a father, you're responsible for loving your child with all your heart. If you're worried about the quality of the education in which you live, you're responsible for doing something about it. If you're a CEO in corporate America, you have a responsibility to tell the truth to your shareholders and your employees. And in this new responsibility society, each of us is responsible for loving our neighbor just like we would like to be loved ourselves.

For all Americans, these years in our history will always stand apart. There are quiet times in the life of a nation when little is expected of its leaders. This is not one of those times. You and I are living in a period when the stakes are high and the challenges are difficult, a time when resolve is needed.

None of us will ever forget that week when one era ended and another began. On September the 14th, 2001, I stood in the ruins of the Twin Towers. I remember a lot about that day. I remember the workers in hardhats who were shouting, "Whatever it takes." I remember the guy who pointed at me and said, "Don't let me down." As we all did that day, these men and women searching through the rubble took it personally. I took it personally. I have a responsibility that goes on. I will never relent in bringing justice to our enemies. I will defend the security of America, whatever it takes.

In these times, I've also been a witness to the character of this Nation. Not so long ago, some had their doubts about the American character, our capacity to meet serious challenges, our capacity to serve a cause greater than self-interest. But Americans have given their answer. I've seen the unselfish courage of our troops. I've seen the heroism of Americans in the face of danger. I've seen the spirit of service and compassion renewed in our country. We've all seen our Nation unite in common purpose when it mattered most.

We will need all of these qualities for the work ahead. We have a war to win, and the world is counting on us to lead the cause of freedom and peace. We have a duty to spread opportunity to every part of America. This is the work that history has set before us. We welcome it. And we know that for our country, the best days lie ahead.

God bless you all. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:52 p.m. at the Shrine Auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; Brad Freeman, California State finance chairman, Gerald L. Parsky, California State chairman, and Mercer Reynolds, national finance chairman, Bush-Cheney '04, Inc.; and Bill Simon, former California gubernatorial candidate, and his wife, Cindy.

Statement on Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell's Decision Not To Seek Reelection

March 3, 2004

For 17 years, Ben Nighthorse Campbell has been a strong advocate in the Congress for the people of Colorado. He has been a leader in seeking the protection of our public lands and natural resources and a tireless champion for Native Americans. Ben is a patriot who has served his country in Congress, as an airman in Korea, and as a competitor in the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

Laura and I send our best to Ben, his wife, Linda, and their family.

Proclamation 7759—American Red Cross Month, 2004

March 3, 2004

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The American Red Cross was founded in 1881 by Clara Barton and chartered by the Congress in 1905 to provide humanitarian services to the United States in times of need. Today, the Red Cross remains dedicated to relieving suffering by helping our citizens prepare for and respond to emergencies and natural disasters.

The Red Cross exemplifies one of the great strengths of America—the compassion of our people. Each year, the Red Cross responds to tens of thousands of disasters in the United States, from home fires and earthquakes to tornadoes and chemical spills. In Afghanistan and Iraq, the Red Cross is serving military families by delivering emergency messages between deployed members of our Armed Forces and their families. Through International Response Teams, the Red Cross provides vital aid overseas to the victims of disease, famine, war, and natural disasters. The Red Cross also educates individuals, families, schools, businesses, and communities about the importance of disaster preparedness, especially after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. By offering health and safety training such as first aid, CPR, and aquatic lifesaving, and by facilitating the collection of millions of units of blood for donation, the Red Cross helps our country to handle emergencies.

Many of the essential services of the American Red Cross are provided by volunteers who give their time and energy to help fellow citizens in need. During Red Cross relief operations, these volunteers assess damages, drive emergency response vehicles to distribute food and other supplies to people, and shelter families who have been evacuated from their homes. As we celebrate American Red Cross Month, I encourage all Americans to commit themselves to helping others by volunteering in their communities.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America and Honorary Chairman of the American Red Cross, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2004 as American Red Cross Month. I urge all Americans to support this organization's humanitarian mission. On behalf of a grateful Nation, we also applaud the selfless dedication of Red Cross employees and volunteers.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:34 a.m., March 4, 2004]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on March 5.

Executive Order 13332—Further Adjustment of Certain Rates of Pay

March 3, 2004

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the laws cited herein, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. *Statutory Pay Systems.* The rates of basic pay or salaries of the statutory pay systems (as defined in 5 U.S.C. 5302(1)), as adjusted under 5 U.S.C. 5303(a), are set forth on the schedules attached hereto and made a part hereof:

(a) The General Schedule (5 U.S.C. 5332(a)) at Schedule 1;

(b) The Foreign Service Schedule (22 U.S.C. 3963) at Schedule 2; and

(c) The schedules for the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs (38 U.S.C. 7306, 7404; section 301(a) of Public Law 102–40) at Schedule 3.

Sec. 2. *Senior Executive Service.* The ranges of rates of basic pay for senior executives in the Senior Executive Service, as established pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5382, as amended by section 1125 of Public Law 108–136, are set forth on Schedule 4 attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Sec. 3. *Executive and Certain Other Salaries.* The rates of basic pay or salaries for the following offices and positions are set forth on the schedules attached hereto and made a part hereof:

(a) The Executive Schedule (5 U.S.C. 5311–5318) at Schedule 5;

(b) The Vice President (3 U.S.C. 104) and the Congress (2 U.S.C. 31) at Schedule 6; and

(c) Justices and judges (28 U.S.C. 5, 44(d), 135, 252, and 461(a), section 140 of Public Law 97–92, and Public Law 108–167) at Schedule 7.

Sec. 4. *Uniformed Services.* Pursuant to section 601(a)–(b) of Public Law 108–136, the rates of monthly basic pay (37 U.S.C.

203) for members of the uniformed services, as adjusted under 37 U.S.C. 1009, and the rate of monthly cadet or midshipman pay are set forth on Schedule 8 attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Sec. 5. *Locality-Based Comparability Payments.*

(a) Pursuant to section 5304 of title 5, United States Code, and in accordance with section 640(a) of Division F of Public Law 108–199, locality-based comparability payments shall be paid in accordance with Schedule 9 attached hereto and made a part hereof.

(b) The Director of the Office of Personnel Management shall take such actions as may be necessary to implement these payments and to publish appropriate notice of such payments in the *Federal Register*.

Sec. 6. *Administrative Law Judges.* The rates of pay for administrative law judges, as adjusted under 5 U.S.C. 5372(b)(4), are set forth on Schedule 10 attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Sec. 7. *Effective Dates.* Schedule 8 is effective on January 1, 2004. The other schedules contained herein are effective on the first day of the first pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2004.

Sec. 8. *Prior Order Superseded.* Executive Order 13322 of December 30, 2003, is superseded.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 3, 2004.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:55 a.m., March 5, 2004]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on March 8.

Memorandum on Imports of Certain Ductile Iron Waterworks Fittings From the People's Republic of China

March 3, 2004

Memorandum for the United States Trade Representative

Subject: Presidential Determination on Imports of Certain Ductile Iron Waterworks Fittings from the People's Republic of China

Consistent with section 421 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2451), I have determined the action I will take with respect to the affirmative determination of the United States International Trade Commission (USITC Investigation TA–421–4) regarding imports of certain ductile iron waterworks fittings (pipe fittings) from China. After considering all relevant aspects of the investigation, I have determined that providing import relief for the U.S. pipe fittings industry is not in the national economic interest of the United States. In particular, I find that the import relief would have an adverse impact on the United States economy clearly greater than the benefits of such action.

The facts of this case indicate that imposing the USITC's recommended tariff-rate quota remedy or any other import relief available under section 421 would be ineffective because imports from third countries would likely replace curtailed Chinese imports. The switch to third country imports could occur quickly because the major U.S. importers already import substantial quantities from countries such as India, Brazil, Korea, and Mexico. Because importers' existing inventories of imports will likely cover demand for approximately 6 to 12 months from the imposition of import relief, a switch from China to alternative import sources would not likely lead to significant additional demand for domestically produced pipe fittings, even accounting for a time lag in making that switch. Under these circumstances, import relief would provide no meaningful benefit to domestic producers.

In addition, import relief would cost U.S. consumers substantially more than the increased income that could be realized by domestic producers. Indeed, the USITC estimated that its recommended remedy would

generate a negative net domestic welfare effect of between $2.3 million and $3.7 million in the first year alone.

While not necessary in reaching my determination that imposing import relief would have an adverse impact on the United States economy clearly greater than the benefits, it is also worth noting two additional points:

- First, evidence suggests that domestic producers enjoy a strong competitive position in the U.S. market, and in fact the largest domestic producer recently announced price increases nationwide ranging from 8 to 35 percent. The two smaller domestic producers and the major U.S. importers have publicly indicated that they would follow these price increases.
- Second, in 2002 and 2003, imports of this product have been relatively stable in volume terms and have shown a slight decline in value terms.

The circumstances of this case make clear that the U.S. national economic interest would not be served by the imposition of import relief under section 421. I remain fully committed to exercising the important authority granted to me under section 421 when the circumstances of a particular case warrant it.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., March 5, 2004]

NOTE: This memorandum was published in the *Federal Register* on March 8.

Remarks in a Discussion on the National Economy in Bakersfield, California

March 4, 2004

The President. John, thanks. Thanks for having me. First, I want to thank your employees for putting up with my entourage. [*Laughter*] It's kind of grown since the last time I was here in Bakersfield. [*Laughter*]

We are here to talk about the economy. I want to—I'm going to have some help here in talking about the economy, people on the frontlines of job creation, people on the frontline of raising their families. Before I do so, I do want to thank you, John, and your family for kind of setting such a great example of what it means to be close family and heralding the entrepreneurial spirit. One of the things I love about America is the entrepreneurial spirit, the fact that people can own their own assets, can start their own business, can realize such a hopeful future, because they own something. We're here at what we call a family-owned business. It's an integral part of America.

When I heard I was coming for Rain for Rent—[*laughter*]—I was thinking about my days in west Texas. [*Laughter*] We were always looking for a little rain and were willing to rent it. [*Laughter*] But I do want to thank your mom and dad, Jerry and Mary, for welcoming me here, and I want to thank your whole family for turning out.

I've spent some quality time in Bakersfield—1949. I don't remember much about it. [*Laughter*] But I was talking to old Number 41—that would be my dad—2 nights ago, and I told him I was going out to Bakersfield. And he said, "Tell the folks out there that Barbara and I have got fond memories of our days living here." Good, decent, honorable, hard-working people in Bakersfield—that's the way it was then, and that's the way it is today. And we're glad to be here.

I want to thank Sharon Thomas, the wife of a guy I call the Chairman; that would be Congressman Bill Thomas. Sharon, thanks for coming today. Bill Thomas is doing a really good job for the people of California and Bakersfield. He's doing a great job for the country. He is a strong leader. We've done a lot working together, some of which I'm about to discuss with you.

I want to thank the mayor, Harvey Hall. He met me at the airport. He drove over in the limousine. Harvey, thanks. He said, "Have you got any advice?" I said, "Yes, fill the potholes." [*Laughter*]

We've got members of the State senate. Roy Ashburn is with us. I've known Roy for a while. He's a good fellow. State assembly—Bill Maze is with us. I thank Bill for being here. I want to thank all the local officials and all the citizens who have taken time out

of your day to come by and to listen to what I hope is an educational dialog.

I want to thank a lady named Dana Karcher, who came out to the airport. I don't know if you know Dana or not; you probably don't. But she is a volunteer in your community. You know what she's done? She's decided—she's involved with Keep Bakersfield Beautiful. She understands that if you're interested in the quality of life in the community in which you live, it starts at the grassroots level, that people have got to take responsibility for the lives and, in this case, the beauty of a place you love and call home. She's a volunteer.

A lot of times we talk about the strength of the country in terms of our military. Make no mistake about it, we're going to keep our military strong in order to keep the peace. And we're going to talk here today about people working and people being able to have savings and wealth. But the true strength of the country lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens. That's what makes America really strong, the fact that we've got loving and decent and honorable citizens willing to help out at the local level, willing to take responsibility, willing to love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself.

If you're a member of the army of compassion here in Bakersfield, California, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. If you're interested in serving your community, find a way to make somebody's life better, make a neighbor's life more hopeful, and you'll be making a great contribution to our Nation. So Dana, thanks for coming. Appreciate the example you've set. Keep doing what you're doing.

This economy of ours is strengthening, and that's positive. See, we want people working here in America. We not only want people working in America, we want people who are working to be comfortable that their job is going to be here tomorrow.

I'm an optimistic fellow about our economy because I've seen what we've been through. And I want to remind you right quick what this country has been through and the challenges this economy had faced over the last 3 years. First, we went through a recession. That means we were going backwards. We weren't growing. That means there was a lot of uncertainty for planners and small-business people. That meant people were losing their jobs.

And we started to come out of that recession, and the enemy hit us on September the 11th, 2001. And the attack hurt us. The attack hurt our economy. The attack also changed our psychology in a way. See, we used to think oceans could protect us from harm, but we learned a tough lesson that day, which means whoever has the honor of holding the Oval Office must take every threat seriously, must deal with threats before they become imminent, must be firm with our resolve to keep America secure, must never relent to the enemies that would harm us because of what we love. And we began to recover from the attacks on September the 11th because we're a strong people, we're resilient, because there's an ownership society, a culture of ownership in America.

And then we had to deal with another problem here in America, and that is, we had some of our fellow citizens forgot what it meant to be a responsible citizen. Corporate CEOs didn't tell the truth to their shareholders and their employees. And that began to affect the psychology of the country. People think—people who invest began to say, "Well, I'm not so sure I believe these numbers," people who work beginning to wonder whether or not in big corporate America, that what they're being told is right. But we acted. We passed tough new laws. You're beginning to see the consequences of people making irresponsible decisions. They need to pay a price for their irresponsibility, and they will, in order to set a clear example. In America, we're not going to tolerate dishonesty in the boardrooms of our country.

And then I made a tough decision to deal with Mr. Saddam Hussein. I saw—[*applause*]—I just want to, right quick, remind you that I looked at the intelligence and saw a threat. The Congress looked at the same intelligence, and they saw a threat. The United Nations Security Council looked at that intelligence, and it saw a threat.

I took my message to the United Nations. I said, "This is a world problem. Let's deal with it. You've given him resolution after resolution after resolution to disarm for a reason, because you saw a threat." And after

September the 11th, it was time to disarm him so the threat wouldn't materialize. He said, "Forget it." He chose defiance. Then I had a choice: Do I trust the word of a madman, or do I make the decision to defend America? I'll defend America every time.

Laura reminded me one time about, on the TV screens, you started to see the banner "March to War" in the summer of 2002. That's not very conducive for investing capital. If you're an employer, if you're a small-business owner and all of a sudden you're thinking about marching to war, it doesn't inspire a lot of confidence in the economy. We overcame that. Now we're marching to peace, by the way. The world is more peaceful.

But we've overcome all that. And the economy is getting stronger. Inflation is low. Interest rates are low. Manufacturing is up. Homeownership is strong. The entrepreneurial spirit in America is alive and well, and one of the reasons why I think we're doing so good here in America is because of the tax relief we passed. It's because people have more money in their pockets.

See, if you're interested in somebody finding work, you've got to put forth policies that encourage economic expansion, progrowth policies, progrowth in the private sector, not policies that grow the Federal Government but policies that grow the small-business sector of our economy. Most new jobs in America are created by small businesses.

And so the plans that Chairman Thomas and I worked on all had in mind helping our individuals as well as helping small-business owners. See, we cut the taxes on everybody. We said, "If you're going to have tax relief, everybody who pays taxes ought to get relief." We're not going to have people in Washington say, "Okay, you get tax relief, and you don't." We had tax relief that was fair because everybody got it. And what's interesting about the tax relief, not only did it help families—and we're about to hear from some families who it helped—but it really helped small businesses. See, most small businesses are either sole proprietorships or Subchapter S corporations, which means they pay tax at the individual income tax level. And so when you cut taxes on the individuals, in many cases you're cutting taxes on the small businesses as well. And we want our small businesses to be strong. We want them to have more money to invest. We want them to have more money to expand. And the tax relief we passed is working because it invigorated the small-business sector of America.

A couple other things I want to tell you, and then we're going to hear from others. I'm not filibustering. [*Laughter*] It's a long Washington word, isn't it? [*Laughter*] We did some other positive things.

If you're raising a family in America, it's hard to do, and so we increased the child credit to $1,000 per child. We doubled the child credit to help families.

We reduced the marriage penalty. It seems like to me you want the Tax Code to encourage marriage and not penalize it.

We reduced taxes on capital gains and dividends. That's important for savers, particularly important for our seniors, many of whom rely upon income from their investment portfolio.

We put the death tax on its way to extinction. Listen, the death tax is bad. It's bad for small businesses. It's bad for farmers. It is bad for ranchers. It makes no sense to tax a family's assets twice, once while you're making money and the next time after you die.

So we've overcome a lot, and the policy we've passed is good policy. There's more to do. I want to share some thoughts with you right quick about what we need to do to make sure people can find a job or are comfortable about the job they have. We need an energy policy in America. We need to make sure our electricity systems are modern, and we need to become less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

We need to make sure we don't become isolated from the world. We don't need economic isolation. We need to have trade policy that treats America fairly. People can sell their products here. We want to be able to sell our products there. If you're good at something, you want to open up markets. Listen, we're really good at growing things. We want to sell our food overseas; we want to sell our beef overseas. We want to have a trade policy that is fair. We must fight off

economic isolationism for the sake of American consumers, American entrepreneurs, and American workers.

We need less regulation. These small-business owners will tell you, many times they fill out too much paperwork. They ought to be focused on helping people find work instead of spending hours on paperwork that probably is never read.

We need tort reform in America. We need to make sure that—frivolous lawsuits make it hard for people to hire; they just do.

Health care costs are rising. We need to do something about health care costs. We need what we call associated health care plans that allow small businesses to pool risk so their employees get reasonably priced health care. We need to expand health savings accounts, which is a fantastic opportunity, by the way, for small-business owners and employees to be able to have health care at affordable price—health insurance at affordable prices.

We need national medical liability reform. Frivolous lawsuits drive up the cost of health care. The Congress passed a good bill. It is stuck in the Senate. The most powerful lobby in Washington, DC, in some estimates, are the trial lawyers. We need to make sure that doctors don't get run out of business and health care costs don't get run up because of these frivolous and junk lawsuits. Congress has got to pass medical liability reform.

And finally, we need to make sure the tax cuts are permanent. See, the tax cuts are set to expire. That's what a lot of people don't understand. This is an important part of the dialog in Washington, DC, now, is how to make sure the economy continues to grow. These job creators need certainty in the Tax Code. You can't have taxes go down one year and up the next. They need certainty when it comes to planning. They need to be able to have certainty when it comes to their investment deductibility. That's what they need.

And yet aspects of the Tax Code are set to expire. Interesting enough, in the year '05, the child credit is going to go back down unless Congress acts. That means a tax increase on these hard-working people. If Congress doesn't step up and act, the child credit is going to go down, which means these good folks are going to pay greater taxes next year. The marriage penalty relief, it goes up, which means if you're married, you're going to pay higher taxes in '05. The expansion of the 10-percent bracket no longer will exist. It's going to be changed, which means people are going to pay higher taxes.

It doesn't make any sense to be paying higher taxes in 2005. This economy is strengthening. It will weaken our economy unless Congress acts. Members of Congress must hear this message loud and clear: We need tax permanency. At the very least, they must make permanent the tax—child credit, the tax relief from the marriage penalty, the tax relief from the expanded 10-percent bracket. For the sake of American families, for the sake of jobs, Congress must not raise the taxes on the hard-working people of America.

And so we're here to talk about the economy. And I'm pretty well talked out—[*laughter*]—much to your pleasure. [*Laughter*] John, why don't you tell us what it's like to run a family-owned business. Obviously, it is capital-intensive. By "capital-intensive," I mean it costs a lot to have one of those pumps there. He has to buy it, and then he goes out and rents it. And so it's a business that—obviously, you've got good, hard-working people you rely upon. But it's a business that requires, you know, some strong asset management. And so, why don't you tell us what it's like to run your own business. Somebody may be out there listening that wants to start their own business. And it's an opportunity for people to learn the great joy and the frustrations and the responsibility of being an entrepreneur here in America.

John Lake. Well, I'll give it a shot.

The President. I'm not worried about you. [*Laughter*]

[*At this point, John W. Lake, president, Rain for Rent, made brief remarks.*]

The President. How much are you going to spend next year, do you think?

Mr. Lake. About $30 million buying capital assets for rent.

The President. Yes. See, when he says he's going to spend $30 million, that means somebody or a group of people are going to go out there and manufacture $30 million

worth of products, which means somebody is going to find work. See, if we increase demand through tax policy—in other words, demand means I want an additional good or a service. In this case, he's saying he wants $30 million worth of goods. The way our economy works is that in response to that demand, somebody is going to produce something. And when they produce it, it means somebody is going to work.

So when you hear about economic policy and you hear about investment and you hear people say investment equals jobs, think about John. John is buying $30 million worth of equipment, which means somebody in Ardmore and Wichita Falls, Texas, is more likely to have a job. And that's how this economy works.

And I appreciate that very much, you explaining that. Let me ask you something, are you going to hire anybody this year? [*Laughter*]

Mr. Lake. Yes, sir. Right now we're looking for 46 more people. And actually, we've grown 24 percent since 9/11.

The President. Well, that's fantastic. That's great.

[*Mr. Lake made further remarks.*]

The President. Let me tell you something about what we need to do to make sure people are employable, is to get people educated in the first place, make sure the Bakersfield school systems teach people how to read and write and add and subtract, make sure there is job training for the jobs which actually exist. We've got some really good people who want to work; they just need the skills. That's why the community college system here in California, all around the country, is an important part of job training, so that you can match desire to work with the skills necessary to work.

And so John is looking for 34. There's a lot of Johns around this country who are looking for workers. See, 34 workers here, 50 there, 2 or 3 here, and this job base is beginning to expand. The economy is strengthening because of the decisionmaking that is taking place. Part of those decisions that he made was the result of tax policy. He's what you call a Subchapter S corporation. When we cut the taxes on individuals, it helps this. You heard him say he didn't have dividends for a while. You know what he's doing? He's putting the money back in the company for the sake of the workers.

That's one of the wonderful things about the entrepreneurial spirit here in America. These owners understand that they've got to have good workers and take care of their workers. And I suspect working here for this great company is a pleasure.

All right. You did a good job. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Lake. Thank you, sir.

The President. Les, tell us about yourself. Victory Circle company.

[*Les DenHerder, president, Victory Circle, Inc., made brief remarks.*]

The President. You are a Subchapter S corporation.

Mr. DenHerder. Yes, we're a Subchapter S.

The President. Okay, if I can just remind everybody, that means he pays taxes at the individual income tax rate at the corporate level. In other words—I shouldn't say "the corporate level." The taxes paid at the corporate level flow through to the individual income tax—to the individual, so therefore individual income taxes affect his small business, a better way to put it.

Mr. DenHerder. Absolutely. And not only that, with capital investment, we're able to make use of some of the tax credits there. This year we're planning on spending probably around $50,000 for additional equipment, and that will probably save us, like, 7,000 because of the tax laws.

The President. Yes. See, the new tax laws said if he invests, he saves $7,000. So it encourages people to invest. What are you going to buy? Do you know yet?

Mr. DenHerder. Some more welders and pipe-bending equipment.

The President. Yes, so somebody has got to make it. That's how the economy works. He makes a decision. It affects a lot of people, the decision you make. So when you hear "tax relief," I hope people connect tax relief with decisionmaking and decisionmaking to jobs. That's what we're talking about. That's why the tax relief was important for job creation.

Okay, I'm going to be looking for your product the next time I start a NASCAR race. [*Laughter*]

Mr. DenHerder. That's good.

The President. It was unbelievable. Thanks for coming. How many—any chances of hiring anybody this year?

Mr. DenHerder. We're probably going to hire two to three people this year.

The President. That's good, see. And you've got how many now?

Mr. DenHerder. We've got 14 now.

The President. There are a lot of companies, a lot in America, with 20 or fewer employees. And when he says he's going to hire two more, that's really good news. A lot of people are feeling confident and optimistic about our future, so they can say, "I'm going to hire two more." They can sit here and tell the President in front of all the cameras, "I'm going to hire two more people." [*Laughter*] That's confidence.

All right, Chris, tell us your business.

[*Chris DiSalvo, president, GMC Roofing and Building Paper Products, Inc., made brief remarks, mentioning his wife, Wilma, and concluding as follows.*]

Mr. DiSalvo. So in February——

The President. I got a good wife too. [*Laughter*]

[*Mr. DiSalvo made further remarks, mentioning his operations manager, Leo Martin, and concluding as follows.*]

Mr. DiSalvo. He's watching the plant.

The President. He's working. [*Laughter*]

Mr. DiSalvo. Exactly.

The President. Leo is doing the right thing.

[*Mr. DiSalvo made further remarks.*]

The President. How did the tax relief help you?

[*Mr. DiSalvo made further remarks.*]

The President. Isn't it a fabulous story? Forty-nine, were you?

Mr. DiSalvo. Yes, sir.

The President. Forty-nine, yes, really young-sounding. [*Laughter*] He starts his own business. He has a desire to own something. The job of Government is to create an environment that encourages and enhances the entrepreneurial spirit. The job of Government is not to create jobs but to create an environment in which people feel comfortable about taking risk to realize their dreams.

I love the stories about your granddad working his way through the Depression and feeling confident enough to start this business and that you and your dad have had the great privilege of growing it and modernizing it and diversifying it to meet the new challenges of our economy.

I love the idea of a guy buying his company and turning it into something. And I love the idea of somebody saying, "I want to own my own company. I want to start it." It's such an important part of our American story. And I intend to keep the entrepreneurial spirit as strong as possible because I understand that when the small-business sector of our economy is vibrant and confident and optimistic, people are more likely to find a job. Now—good job, guys, really good job.

Okay, Ismael Diaz is with us. He is a manager. Ismael, tell us about yourself.

Mr. Diaz. Well, I'm—technically, I just work in the engineering department. [*Laughter*] I'll let my boss know I got a promotion.

The President. Well, I just made you a manager. Yes. Congratulations, you got a promotion. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Lake. Congratulations, Ismael. [*Laughter*]

The President. Yes.

[*Mr. Diaz, engineer/project manager, Rain for Rent, made brief remarks.*]

The President. How many of your—how many in your family had ever been to college prior to you?

Mr. Diaz. None.

The President. Yes.

Mr. Diaz. So we're the first generation to go.

[*Mr. Diaz made further remarks, concluding as follows.*]

Mr. Diaz. I never particularly paid attention to taxes until I had kids, was married, had a mortgage payment.

The President. 'Til you started to pay some.

Mr. Diaz. Exactly. [*Laughter*]

[*Mr. Diaz made further remarks, concluding as follows.*]

Mr. Diaz. I have a 3-year-old and a 1-year-old with my wife, America, who is out in the audience. And—she's out there.

The President. Can you imagine if my name were America? [*Laughter*]

Mr. Diaz. It makes for some interesting conversation.

The President. That's right, yes.

Mr. Diaz. It's an icebreaker.

The President. It is. [*Laughter*]

[*Mr. Diaz made further remarks, concluding as follows.*]

Mr. Diaz. When you go in one year paying a thousand bucks to the next year getting a $3,000 refund, that's a pretty quick flip-flop from one year to the next.

The President. Yes.

Mr. Diaz. And what it allowed us to do was have my wife start working full-time. She's a schoolteacher, and I understand you're fond of schoolteachers.

The President. Thank you. Appreciate you doing that.

[*Mr. Diaz made further remarks, concluding as follows.*]

Mr. Diaz. And we'd take the refund money, invest it in college funds for our two little kids.

The President. Fantastic.

Mr. Diaz. If we have any more, we'll do the same for them.

The President. That's good.

Mr. Diaz. It's up to her. [*Laughter*]

The President. I don't think we want to go there, Ismael. [*Laughter*]

Mr. Diaz. So I know it's—if taxes do go up, we'll feel that impact immediately.

The President. Yes. Listen, here's—what he's saying is—and it's a fundamental argument about taxes—obviously, we got to meet priorities. We got a war to win. We got things to do in Washington. But I always felt that with the economy slowing down, we want the Ismaels of the world to have more money to make their life easier, to increase demand. And I would argue with people that this good man can spend his money far more wisely than the Federal Government can spend his money.

He said he had $3,150 in tax savings. That's a lot of money for a young family. That's a lot of security. Notice what he said, he said, "We're beginning to set money aside for our kids." I oftentimes say it's important for us to have a culture of personal responsibility, and it starts with moms and dads loving their children with all their heart and all their soul. And that's what Ismael has signaled to us.

If Congress doesn't act, his taxes go up by $2,000. It's a $2,000 tax increase. Congress must listen to the voices of people like Ismael. Two thousand less dollars in his pocket is going to make a difference to his family. So when you hear, "Oh, I don't want to make the tax cuts permanent," you translate to that, "We're to raise Ismael's taxes." That's what they're saying.

Now, we got with us as well Theresa—oh, let me say something about Ismael's dad. Where is his dad? Is he here? There he is. Thanks for coming, sir. He came here and worked hard, and he stood in line and became a citizen. And that's what needs to happen with immigration policy. Look, we need to—we don't need blanket amnesty here in America. What we need is, we need to help people find work in a legal way.

Your dad did it the legal way. He came and worked because he wanted to be a good dad, and he earned a living. And he stood in line in a legal way and then became a citizen of this country. I put forth a plan—we were talking to these employers; they don't know whether they're hiring somebody here who's legally or not. We need a temporary-worker plan. That is not an amnesty plan; it's a worker plan to make sure the employers here in America are able to find the laborers that other Americans won't do, in a legal way. We need to make sure we treat people humanely in this country. And I want to thank you for the example. Think about that, how American is that: The guy works all his life so his son can go to college.

Theresa is with us. Theresa Avila is the sales representative.

Ms. Avila. Yes.

The President. Is that an accurate assessment?

Ms. Avila. That's correct, Mr. President.

The President. Would you like to—would you like a promotion? [*Laughter*]

Ms. Avila. Yes, sir, I would.

The President. The tax cuts weren't big enough for all—[*laughter*]. Thank you, Theresa. Please.

[*Ms. Avila, sales representative, Rain for Rent, made brief remarks, concluding as follows.*]

Ms. Avila. My daughter Amanda, she's 16. She goes to Liberty High School.

The President. Does she have her driver's license?

Ms. Avila. Almost. She's begging for it.

The President. Yes. [*Laughter*] I've been through that before. [*Laughter*]

Ms. Avila. And my daughter Alexandra, who is 9, she's a fourth grader. She's over there. She's in——

The President. I see her. Hi, Alexandra.

Ms. Avila. ——elementary.

The President. She's a beautiful girl.

Ms. Avila. Thank you.

The President. She has a great smile.

Ms. Avila. Thank you.

[*Ms. Avila made further remarks, concluding as follows.*]

Ms. Avila. And I hope that with your help and your continued support, that we will be a successful family, a successful American family.

The President. Yes, well, you are successful already. And I can tell that, listening to you.

Ms. Avila. Thank you.

The President. You're really successful, successful because you love your kids more than anything else, successful because you—you set education as priority for your family. This good family saved about $3,400 because of the tax relief. If Congress doesn't go up—act, their taxes are going up by $3,100, see?

What's happening, by the way, is that people all of a sudden are going to be thrust into the alternative minimum tax bracket. Those are long words, but just trust me, it means you got a tax increase coming unless Congress acts. They need to make the child credit permanent. They need to make the marriage penalty relief permanent. They need to make sure the 10-percent bracket stays permanent. And they need to deal with the alternative minimum tax so these good, hard-working people don't pay more taxes in the year 2005.

Is there anything else you want to say? Okay, well, listen, thank you all for coming. I hope this has been helpful in understanding how the economy works, how people make decisions, how families make decisions.

You just heard Theresa say they helped—they did some work on their home. Well, somebody had to come and do it. When she took the tax relief, she had to go get somebody to come and do it. And the person who came to do it had to buy more supplies in order to make sure the house got fixed. That's how the economy works. There's a lot of decisionmaking that goes on. It's the millions of decisions by consumers and producers to meet the demand of those consumers that really makes a marketplace economy function. And Government can have a good role in encouraging the vitality of economy. And that's what the tax relief plan did. And that's why we've got to make sure that the benefits of tax relief don't go away. That's why we got to make sure that we're not raising the taxes on the people of this country.

I'm optimistic about America because I understand the character of our people. We're people who work hard, dream big dreams, people who are responsible for the decisions we make, people who love our families. It's a fabulous country. We've overcome a lot, and the reason we have is because of the character of the American people.

It's my honor to be here in the great city of Bakersfield, California. Thank you all for coming. May God bless you all. May God continue to bless our country.

Good job, John.

Mr. Lake. Thank you.

The President. Good job.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:40 a.m. at Rain for Rent. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Harvey L. Hall of Bakersfield, CA; Roy Ashburn, California State senator; Bill Maze, California State assemblyman; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks at a Bush-Cheney Luncheon in Santa Clara, California

March 4, 2004

Thanks a lot. Thanks for coming. Thanks for the warm welcome. It is great to be back. I appreciate it. Thanks. Be seated, please. Thanks for the warm welcome. It is great to be back in Santa Clara. Such a beautiful part of our country, isn't it? It's a wonderful day.

I have had a great trip here to California. I was in Los Angeles yesterday and Bakersfield this morning. I don't know if you know that, but in 1949 we called that home. I was quick to remind the people in Bakersfield I'd called it home. [*Laughter*]

Had a chance to spend some quality time with your Governor yesterday. I know you were a little disappointed, like I was, that "Terminator 3" didn't win any Oscars. [*Laughter*] But Arnold has had a pretty good year. By electing Governor Schwarzenegger, the voters of California have shown that no party can take California for granted.

The Vice President and I are going to be spending some quality time here this coming year. With your continued help, California is going to be an important part of a nationwide victory in November 2004. Speaking about the Vice President, I made a really good pick when I asked Dick Cheney to serve by my side. He is a fabulous Vice President for our country. Mother may have a second opinion. [*Laughter*]

I'm sorry Laura is not with me. She is in Texas. She was visiting her mother in Midland, Texas, where both of us were raised. She's on her way to Crawford. After I give this speech, I'm on my way to Crawford. She sends her best greetings to our friends here in the Bay Area. I tell you, Laura is a great First Lady. I'm a fortunate man that she is—agreed to marry me, and I love her dearly.

I want to thank Brad for his friendship and leadership here in the State of California, and my friend Gerry Parsky, who is the State campaign chairman. I too want to thank Katie Boyd and Gregory Slayton for their hard work, and thank my friend Mercer Reynolds from Cincinnati, Ohio, who is the national finance chairman of Bush-Cheney '04—good people working hard to make sure that we're well-funded. And we will be.

I appreciate Bill Jones, the next United States Senator from the State of California, with us today. The next United States Senator from the State of South Dakota is with us today, Congressman John Thune. Thank you for coming, John.

I want to thank all the grassroots activists who are here, the people who are going to make the phone calls and put up the signs and turn out the vote. I want to thank you in advance for what you're going to do. It's important.

Last Tuesday night I placed a call to Senator Kerry. I told him I was looking forward to a spirited campaign, and I congratulated him on his victory. It's going to be an interesting debate on the issues. My opponent has spent two decades in Washington, and he's built up quite a record. In fact, Senator Kerry has been in Washington long enough to take both sides on just about every issue. [*Laughter*]

Voters have a clear choice between keeping the tax relief that is moving this economy forward or putting the burden of higher taxes back on the American people. They have a clear choice between an America that leads the world with strength and confidence or an America that is uncertain in the face of danger.

I look forward to setting these alternatives squarely before the American people. I look forward to this campaign. We have a great record. We've achieved a lot during the last 3 years. And most important, we have a positive vision for the years ahead, a positive vision for winning the war against terror and extending peace and freedom throughout the world, a positive vision for creating jobs and promoting opportunity and compassion here at home. I will leave no doubt where I stand. We look forward to winning on the 2nd of November.

The last 3 years have brought serious challenges, and we have given serious answers. We came to office with the stock market in decline and an economy headed into recession, delivered historic tax relief, and now our economy is the fastest growing of any major industrialized nation.

We had to confront corporate crimes that cost people their jobs and their savings, so we passed strong corporate reforms and made it abundantly clear that we will not tolerate dishonesty in the boardrooms of America.

We saw war and grief arrive on a quiet September morning, so we pursued the terrorist enemy across the world, captured or killed many of the key leaders of the Al Qaida network. And the rest of them will learn there is no cave or hole deep enough to hide from American justice.

We confronted the dangers of state-sponsored terror and the spread of weapons of mass destruction, so we ended two of the most violent and dangerous regimes on Earth. We freed over 50 million people. And once again, America is proud to lead the armies of liberation.

When Dick Cheney and I came to Washington, we found a military that was underfunded and underappreciated, so we gave our military the resources and respect they deserve. And today, no one can question the skill and the strength and the spirit of the United States military.

We came to office, and people in Washington were used to gridlock, and old problems were used to score points. Old problems were politicized and debated and then just passed on from year to year. But we came for a purpose. We came to get some things done for the people. We passed major reforms to raise the standards in public schools. We passed reforms for Medicare to give prescription drugs and choices to senior citizens. We chose to lead, and we produced results for the American people.

It is the President's job to confront problems, not to pass them on to future Presidents and future generations. A President needs to step up and make the hard decisions and keep his commitments, and that is how I will continue to lead our country.

Great events will turn on this election. The man who sits in the Oval Office will set the course of the war on terror and the direction of our economy. The security and prosperity of America are at stake. My opponent has not offered much in the way of strategies to win the war or policies to expand our economy. So far all we hear from that side is a lot of old bitterness and partisan anger. Anger is not an agenda for the future of America. We're taking on the big issues with optimism and resolve and determination. I stand ready to lead this Nation for 4 more years.

The big issue for every family in America is the Federal tax burden. With the largest tax relief since Ronald Reagan was President, we have left more money in the hands that earned it. By spending and investing and helping to create new jobs, the American people have used their money far better than the Government would have.

Because we acted, our economy is growing stronger. The economy grew in the second half of 2003 at one of the fastest rates in nearly 20 years. Productivity is high. Business investment is rising. Interest rates and inflation are low. Homeownership is at the highest rate ever. Manufacturing is increasing. We've added 366,000 new jobs over the past 5 months. The tax relief we passed is working.

My opponent has plans for those tax cuts. He wants to take them away. He would use that money to expand the Federal Government. I have a better idea: To keep this economy growing and to create jobs, the tax cuts must be permanent.

We must do more to keep the economy growing. We need to maintain fiscal discipline in our Nation's Capital. We need to protect businessowners and employees from frivolous lawsuits and needless regulation. We need to control the health—the cost of health care by passing medical liability reform at the national level. We need to open up markets for California's entrepreneurs and farmers and ranchers and manufacturers. We need to pass sound energy legislation to modernize the electricity system and to make America less dependent on foreign sources of energy. My opponent has talked about job creation, but he's against every one of these job-creating measures. Empty talk about jobs and economic isolationism won't get anyone hired.

This economy of ours is going through a time of change and challenge. We're helping people to gain the skills and the security to make a good living and to look forward to

a good retirement. All skills start with education. I worked with Congress to pass a really good piece of legislation, the No Child Left Behind Act. This good law is challenging the soft bigotry of low expectations. In return for increased Federal dollars, particularly for Title I students, we demanded that every public school in America show us whether or not each child is learning to read and write and add and subtract. We have done so because we refuse to accept mediocrity. We expect the best so that not one single child is left behind in America.

We're doing more. We have plans to help high school students who fall behind in reading and math. We've got a sound strategy to help our community colleges to train workers for the industries that are creating the new jobs for our economy. Education is the gateway to a hopeful future; this administration understands the gate must be open to all Americans.

We're also working to promote an ownership society in America in which more people own their own homes and build their own savings. We want more people owning their own small businesses. We want people to own and manage their own health care plans. We want younger workers to own and manage their own retirement under Social Security. When people have solid assets, this administration understands they gain independence and security and dignity. I believe in private property so much, I want everybody to have some.

On issue after issue, the American people have a clear choice. My opponent is against personal retirement accounts, against putting patients in charge of Medicare, and against tax relief. He seems to be against every idea that gives Americans more authority and more choices and more control over their own lives. The same old Washington mindset: They'll give the orders, and you'll pay the bills. I've got news for the Washington crowd. America has gone beyond that way of thinking, and we're not going back. The policy that this administration is promoting trusts the people of America, to trust the people to make the best decisions with their own money, to trust the people to manage their own health care and their own retirement and their own lives.

Our future also depends on America's leadership in this world. The momentum of freedom in our time is strong, but we still face serious challenges. Al Qaida is wounded but not broken. Terrorists are testing our will in Afghanistan and Iraq. Regimes in North Korea and Iran are challenging the peace. If America shows weakness and uncertainty in this decade, the world will drift toward tragedy. That is not going to happen on my watch.

This Nation is strong and confident in the cause of freedom. No friend or enemy today doubts the word of America. America and our allies gave an ultimatum to the terror regime in Afghanistan. The Taliban chose defiance. The Taliban are no longer in power. America and our allies gave an ultimatum to the terror regime in Iraq. The dictator chose defiance. Now the dictator sits in a prison cell.

September the 11th, 2001, taught a lesson I have not forgotten. America must confront threats before they fully materialize. In Iraq, my administration looked at the intelligence information, and we saw a threat. The Congress looked at the intelligence information, and they saw a threat. The United Nations Security Council looked at the intelligence information, and it saw a threat. The previous administration and Congress looked at the intelligence and made regime change in Iraq the policy of our country. In 2002, the U.N. Security Council yet again demanded a full accounting of Saddam Hussein's weapons programs. As he had for over a decade, Saddam Hussein refused to comply. So I had a choice to make, either to take the word of a madman or take action to defend America. Faced with that choice, I will defend our country every time.

My opponent admits that Saddam Hussein was a threat. He just didn't support my decision to remove Saddam from power. Perhaps he was hoping Saddam would lose the next Iraqi election. [*Laughter*] We showed the dictator and a watching world that America means what it says.

Because our coalition acted, Saddam's torture chambers are closed. Because we acted, Iraq's weapons programs are ended forever. Because we acted, nations like Libya have gotten the message and renounced their own

weapons programs. Because we acted, an example of democracy is rising at the very heart of the Middle East. Because we acted, the world is more free, and America is more secure.

We still face thugs and terrorists in Iraq who would rather go on killing the innocent than accept the advance of liberty. They know that a free Iraq will be a major defeat in the cause of terror. This collection of killers is trying to shake our will. They don't understand America. America will never be intimidated by thugs or assassins.

We're aggressively striking the terrorists in Iraq, defeating them there so we won't have to face them in our own country. We're calling on other nations to help Iraq to build a free society, which will make the whole world more peaceful and secure. We're standing with the Iraqi people as they assume more of their own defense and move toward self-government. These aren't easy tasks, but they're essential tasks. We'll finish what we have begun. We will win this essential victory in the war on terror.

On national security, Americans have the clearest possible choice. My opponent says he approves of bold action in the world, but only if other countries don't object. I'm all for united action, and so are the 34 coalition partners we have in Iraq right now. Yet America must never outsource America's national security decisions to leaders of other countries.

Some are skeptical that the war on terror is really a war at all. Here's what my opponent said. He said the war on terror is far less of a military operation and far more of an intelligence-gathering, law enforcement operation. I disagree. Our Nation followed this approach after the World Trade Center was bombed in 1993. The matter was handled in the courts and thought by some to be settled. But the terrorists were still training in Afghanistan. They were still plotting in other nations. They were drawing up more ambitious plans. After the chaos and carnage of September the 11th, it's not enough to serve our enemies with legal papers. With those attacks, the terrorists and their supporters declared war on the United States of America, and war is what they got.

At bases across our country and the world, I have had the privilege, the high privilege of meeting with the men and women of our military who are defending our country and sacrificing for our security. I've seen their great decency and unselfish courage. I can assure you, ladies and gentlemen, the cause of freedom is in good hands.

The Nation is prosperous and strong. Yet we need to remember that our greatest strength is in the hearts and souls of our citizens. We're strong because of the values we try to live by, courage, compassion, reverence, and integrity. We're strong because of the institutions that help give us direction and purpose, families and schools and religious congregations.

These values and institutions are fundamental to our lives, and they deserve the respect of our Government. We stand for the fair treatment of faith-based groups so they can receive Federal support for their works of compassion and healing. We will not stand for Government discrimination against people of faith.

We stand for welfare reforms that require work and strengthen marriage, which have helped millions of Americans find independence and dignity. We will not stand for any attempt to weaken those reforms and to send people back into lives of dependence. We stand for a culture of life in which every person counts and every person matters. We will not stand for the treatment of any life as a commodity to be experimented upon or exploited or cloned. We stand for the confirmation of judges who strictly and faithfully interpret the law. We will not stand for judges who undermine democracy by legislating from the bench or try to remake the culture of America by court order.

We stand for a culture of responsibility in America. We're changing the culture of this country from one that has said, "If it feels good, do it," and "If you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture in which each of us understands we're responsible for the decisions we make in life. If you're fortunate enough to be a mother or father, you're responsible for loving your child with all your heart. If you're worried about the quality of the education in the community in which you live, you're responsible for doing something

about it. If you're a CEO in corporate America, you have the responsibility to tell the truth to your shareholders and your employees. And in the responsibility society, each of us is responsible for loving our neighbor just like we'd like to be loved ourself.

For all Americans, these years in our history will always stand apart. There are quiet times in the life of a nation, when little is expected of the leaders. This is not one of those times. You and I are living in a period when the stakes are high, the challenge is difficult, and resolve is needed. None of us will ever forget that week when one era ended and another began.

On September the 14th, 2001, I stood in the ruins of the Twin Towers. I'll never forget that day. I remember the workers and the hardhats who were shouting, "Whatever it takes." I remember the guy who pointed his finger at me and said, "Don't let me down." As we all did that day, these men and women searching through the rubble took it personally. I took it personally. I have a responsibility that goes on. I will never relent in bringing justice to our enemies. I will defend our country, whatever it takes.

In these times, I've also been a witness to the character of this Nation. Not so long ago, some had their doubts about the American character, about our capacity to meet serious challenges or to serve a cause greater than self-interest. But Americans have given their answer. I've seen the unselfish courage of our troops. I've seen the heroism of Americans in the face of danger. I've seen the spirit of service and compassion renewed in our country. We've all seen our Nation unite in common purpose when it mattered most.

We'll need all these qualities for the work ahead. We have a war to win, and the world is counting on us to lead the cause of freedom and peace. We have a duty to spread opportunity and hope to every part of America. This is the work that history has set before us. We welcome it. And we know that for our country, the best days lie ahead.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1 p.m. at the Santa Clara Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger of California; Brad Freeman, California State finance chairman, Gerald L. Parsky, California State chairman, and Mercer Reynolds, national finance chairman, Bush-Cheney '04, Inc.; Bill Jones, Republican candidate for California Senator; and former Representative John R. Thune, Republican candidate for South Dakota Senator.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Proposed Protocol Amending the Indonesia-U.S. Agreement Concerning Nuclear Energy

March 4, 2004

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, consistent with sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)) (the "Act"), the text of a proposed Protocol Amending the Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, signed at Washington on June 30, 1980. I also transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the Protocol, and an unclassified Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement (NPAS) concerning the Protocol. (Consistent with section 123 of the Act, as amended by title XII of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–277), a classified Annex to the NPAS, prepared by the Secretary of State in consultation with the Director of Central Intelligence, summarizing relevant classified information, will be submitted to the Congress separately.) The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Energy and a letter from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission stating the views of the Commission are also enclosed.

I am advised that the proposed Protocol has been negotiated consistent with the Act and other applicable law and that it meets all statutory requirements. This Protocol will advance the nonproliferation and other foreign policy interests of the United States.

The Protocol amends the Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of

the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy in two respects:

1. It extends the Agreement, which expired by its terms on December 30, 2001, until December 30, 2031, with effect from the former date; and

2. It updates certain provisions of the Agreement relating to the physical protection of nuclear material subject to the Agreement.

As amended by the proposed Protocol, the Agreement will continue to meet all requirements of U.S. law.

Indonesia is a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and has an agreement with the IAEA for the application of full-scope safeguards to its nuclear program. It was also among the early sponsors of, and is a current party to, the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. The United States and Indonesia have had a long and positive history of cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, with our earliest agreement for this purpose dating back to 1960.

I have considered the views and recommendations of the interested agencies in reviewing the proposed Protocol and have determined that its performance will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Accordingly, I have approved the Protocol and authorized its execution and urge that the Congress give it favorable consideration.

This transmission shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act. My Administration is prepared to begin immediately the consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and House International Relations Committee consistent with section 123 b. Upon completion of the 30-day continuous session period provided for in section 123 b., the 60-day continuous session period provided for in section 123 d. shall commence.

George W. Bush

The White House,
March 4, 2004.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on March 5. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 28

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

February 29

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

March 1

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing and met with the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President met with Miss America 2003, Erika Harold. Later, he met with Members of Congress.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain to discuss the situation in Haiti, President Aznar's recent visit to Colombia, and the situation in Venezuela.

In the evening, at the home of Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, the President made remarks at a National Republican Senatorial Committee reception.

The President announced his intention to nominate Deborah Hersman to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board.

March 2

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Jacques Chirac of France to discuss the situation in Haiti. Later, he had a telephone conversation with President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil to discuss the situation in Haiti and regional issues. He then had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, in an Oval Office ceremony, the President received the annual report of the Boy Scouts of America.

In the afternoon, the President participated in a photo opportunity with student delegates from the U.S. Senate Youth Program.

In the evening, the President had a telephone conversation with Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts to congratulate the Senator on his victories in Democratic Presidential primary elections earlier in the day.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Committee on the National Medal of Science: Francisco G. Cigarroa, Denice Dee Denton, Peter H. Raven, and Margaret H. Wright.

March 3

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Los Angeles, CA, where, upon arrival, he greeted USA Freedom Corps volunteer Charlotte Van Fleet.

In the afternoon, at the Los Angeles Convention Center, the President met with faith-based program participants.

In the evening, the President attended a Republican National Committee Victory 2004 dinner at a private residence.

The President announced his intention to nominate Benjamin Grumbles to be Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The President announced the designation of the following individuals to attend the state funeral of President Boris Trajkovski of Macedonia on March 5: Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi (head of delegation); Lawrence Butler; Frank Wolf; Eliot Engel; Barry Jackson; and Kent Patton.

The President declared a major disaster in New York and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by record/near record snow on January 28–31.

March 4

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Bakersfield, CA, where, upon arrival, he greeted USA Freedom Corps volunteer Dana Karcher.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Santa Clara, CA. Later, he traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The White House announced that the President and Mrs. Bush will welcome President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, on April 12.

The President announced his intention to designate Erle Nye as Chairman of the National Infrastructure Advisory Council.

March 5

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush welcomed President Vicente Fox of Mexico and his wife, Marta Sahagun de Fox, to the Bush Ranch.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a dinner for President and Mrs. Fox.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Antitrust Modernization Commission: Dennis W. Carlton; Deborah A. Garza; Sanford M. Litvack; and Deborah P. Majoras.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted March 1

Ann R. Klee,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, vice Robert E. Fabricant, resigned.

Submitted March 2

Deborah Hersman,
of Virginia, to be a member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2008, vice John Goglia, term expired.

Submitted March 3

Benjamin Grumbles,
of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, vice George Tracy Mehan III, resigned.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released February 28

Transcript of remarks by National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to the Reagan Lecture

Statement by the Press Secretary condemning the violence in Haiti

Released February 29

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3850

Released March 1

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Released March 2

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Fact sheet: President Highlights a More Secure America on First Anniversary of Department of Homeland Security

Released March 3

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan and Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Office Director Jim Towey

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to New York

Fact sheet: Compassion in Action: Helping America's Charities Serve Those Most in Need

Released March 4

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Statement by the Press Secretary: Meeting With President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 743

Released March 5

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Scott McClellan

Acts Approved by the President

Approved February 29

H.R. 3850 / Public Law 108–202
Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2004

Approved March 2

H.R. 743 / Public Law 108–203
Social Security Protection Act of 2004

S. 523 / Public Law 108–204
Native American Technical Corrections Act of 2004

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